



2024  
WARRANT

The inhabitants of the Town of Northwood in the County of Rockingham in the state of New Hampshire qualified to vote in Town affairs are hereby notified that the Annual Town Meeting will be held as follows:



**Article 01 Election of Officers**

To choose all necessary officers for the ensuing year for:  
Selectman  
Town Clerk / Tax Collector  
Moderator  
Supervisor of the Checklist  
Trustee of the Trust Funds  
Library Trustee  
Cemetery Trustees  
Planning Board  
Budget Committee  
Police Commission

**Article 02 Zoning Amendment #1**

Are you in favor of adoption of Amendment no. 1 as proposed by the Planning Board for the Development Ordinance of the Town of Northwood as follows?

Amend Section X Floodplain Management Ordinance as recommended by the New Hampshire Office of Planning & Development to reflect changes to the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) National Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) in the Merrimack River watershed. FEMA no longer recommends the term "100-year flood" and "base flood" is recommended in its place. The amendment would edit all references to "100-year flood." The amendment adds, adjusts, and deletes some definitions of terms, and adjusts some technical requirements for development in this overlay zone.

**Article 03 Zoning Amendment #2**

Are you in favor of adoption of Amendment no. 2 as proposed by the Planning Board for the Development Ordinance of the Town of Northwood as follows?

Amend Section III Definitions and Section VI.A(4)(a) Wetland Overlay to no longer define a septic system as a "structure" and increase the minimum shoreland setbacks for septic systems to 50 feet from 20 feet.

**Article 04 Zoning Amendment #3**

Are you in favor of adoption of Amendment no. 3 as proposed by the Planning Board for the Development Ordinance of the Town of Northwood as follows?

Amend Section III Definitions and Section IV.B(6) Accessory Dwelling Units to allow detached accessory dwelling units (ADU) with restrictions; to clarify some technical requirements for such dwelling units, including a maximum distance of 75 feet between the principal and accessory residences and limiting ADUs to a maximum of 1,000 square feet in all circumstances; and to clarify that existing dimensional nonconformities of the lot do not preclude the addition of an ADU.



**Article 05     Zoning Amendment #4**

Are you in favor of adoption of Amendment no. 4 as proposed by the Planning Board for the Development Ordinance of the Town of Northwood as follows?

Delete existing light regulations and replace with new Lighting Criteria Required for All Uses aka Night Sky Protection Ordinance to adjust outdoor lighting requirements and give the Town more oversight over outdoor lighting. This would include defining "Light Trespass" and "Temporary Lighting," among others. Major amendments are made to the Outdoor Lighting Design standards: including a threshold for which a light source must be a "full cut off" fixture; adjusting height limit so that the height is subject to its distance to a property boundary OR retains the existing height limit of 14.5 feet; and clarifying language regarding lighting within a canopy-type structure. It also adds new exemption of seasonal holiday lighting.

**Article 06     Zoning Amendment #5**

Are you in favor of adoption of Amendment no. 5 as proposed by the Planning Board for the Development Ordinance of the Town of Northwood as follows?

Amend Section III Definitions to redefine "Bed & Breakfast," and add definitions for "Hotel," "Inn," and "Motel."

**Article 07     Zoning Amendment #6**

Are you in favor of adoption of Amendment no. 6 as proposed by the Planning Board for the Development Ordinance of the Town of Northwood as follows?

Amend Section V.D Unlisted Uses for a use not listed in Table V-1 Use Table to be subject only to V.C(1), to be located within 1,000 feet of a state highway, rather than also subject to V.C(2), to be visually screened from other properties.

**Article 08     Operating Budget**

Shall the Town raise and appropriate as an operating budget, not including appropriations by special warrant articles and other appropriations voted separately, the amounts set forth on the budget posted with the warrant or as amended by vote of the first session, for the purposes set forth therein, totaling four million five hundred seventy-nine thousand eighteen dollars (\$4,579,018)? Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be four million ninety thousand six hundred & thirty dollars (\$4,090,630) which is the same as last year, with certain adjustments required by previous action of the town or by law; or the governing body may hold one special meeting, in accordance with RSA 40:13, X and XVI, to take up the issue of a revised operating budget only.

(Majority vote required)

(Estimated Tax, net of estimated revenue, \$2.69)

(Recommended by the Budget Committee 10-5)

(Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 4-0)



**Article 09 Fire Department Ambulance Lease/Purchase Payment**

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate twenty-six thousand two hundred twenty-five dollars (\$26,225) as the fourth payment on a 7-year lease/purchase agreement for an ambulance with said funds to come from the Fire Rescue Vehicle Replacement Special Revenue Fund established for this purpose. If this article is defeated the vehicle must be returned and the town loses the \$100,000 down payment and all prior years' payments.

(Majority vote required)

(No Tax Impact)

(Recommended by the Budget Committee 15-0)

(Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 4-0)

**Article 10 Fire Apparatus Lease/Purchase Payment**

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate fifty-two thousand two hundred thirty-seven dollars (\$52,237) as the fourth payment on a 5-year lease/purchase agreement for a Tanker Truck with said funds to come from the Fire Rescue Vehicle Replacement Special Revenue Fund established for this purpose. If this article is defeated the vehicle must be returned and the town loses the \$300,000 down payment and all prior years' payments.

(Majority vote required)

(No Tax Impact)

(Recommended by the Budget Committee 15-0)

(Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 4-0)

**Article 11 Highway Dump Truck Lease/Purchase Payment**

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate a sum of twenty-six thousand four hundred thirty-nine dollars (\$26,439) for the sixth-year lease payment of the seven-year lease/purchase agreement of a highway dump truck that was approved at the 2019 Town Meeting. If this article is defeated the vehicle must be returned and the town loses all prior years' payments.

(Majority vote required)

(Tax Estimate \$0.03)

(Recommended by the Budget Committee 15-0)

(Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 4-0)

**Article 12 Town Employee Cost of Living Increase**

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of eighty-one thousand one hundred dollars (\$81,100) to cover the salary and benefits-cost associated with providing a 3% COLA (cost of living adjustment) in 2024 for all town employees. Said amount to come from taxation.

(Majority vote required)

(Tax Estimate \$0.09)

(Recommended by the Budget Committee 15-0)

(Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 4-0)



**Article 13 Road Improvement ETF Deposit**

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of two hundred and fifty thousand dollars (\$250,000) to be added to the Road Improvement Expendable Trust Fund previously established to be used for improvements to Town roads, including but not limited to paving, installing, and replacing culverts, tree removal prior to road work, crack sealing, ditching, grading, and full reconstruction in accordance with the Town's Road Surface Management Plan. Current balance in the Road Improvement Expendable Trust Fund as of December 31, 2023: \$134,713.

(Majority vote required)

(Tax Estimate \$0.27)

(Recommended by the Budget Committee 15-0)

(Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 4-0)

**Article 14 Northwood Public Safety Facilities Plans**

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) to be used to engage the professional services to develop the necessary plans, and engineering associated with addressing the critical need for new Public Safety Facilities. This is a special article and will not lapse until December 31, 2025.

(Majority vote required)

(Tax Estimate \$0.10)

(Recommended by the Budget Committee 10-1)

(Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 4-0)

**Article 15 Narrows Fire Station Roof Replacement**

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of thirty-five thousand dollars (\$35,000) for the replacement of the roof on the Narrows Fire Station at 85 Main Street. Said project including but not limited to removing the existing roofing material, repairing any structural defects, and installing new shingles to meet all building codes.

(Majority vote required)

(Tax Estimate \$0.04)

(Recommended by the Budget Committee 15-0)

(Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 4-0)

**Article 16 Fire Apparatus Purchase**

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate four hundred thousand dollars (\$400,000) for the purpose of replacing the 1996 Spartan Fire Engine and with said funds to come from the Fire Rescue Vehicle Replacement Special Revenue Fund established for this purpose.

(Majority vote required)

(No Tax Impact)

(Recommended by the Budget Committee 9-2)

(Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 4-0)



**Article 17      Establish a Winter Maintenance Expendable Trust Fu**

Shall the Town vote to establish a Winter Maintenance Expendable Trust Fund for unanticipated winter maintenance expenses, meaning sand, salt, and contract plowing, in excess of projected needs and raise and appropriate the sum of twenty thousand dollars (\$20,000) to be placed in said fund and further to name the Board of Selectmen as agents to expend from said fund without further authorization. Said amount to come from the unassigned fund balance as of December 31, 2023.

(Majority vote required)

(No Tax Impact)

(Recommended by the Budget Committee 13-2)

(Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 4-0)

**Article 18      Building Maintenance ETF Deposit**

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of fifteen thousand dollars (\$15,000) to be added to the Building Maintenance Expendable Trust Fund previously established. Said amount to come from the unassigned fund balance as of December 31, 2023. Current balance in the Building Maintenance Expendable Trust Fund as of December 31, 2023: \$41,363.

(Majority vote required)

(No Tax Impact)

(Recommended by the Budget Committee 15-0)

(Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 4-0)

**Article 19      Lagoon Maintenance & Repair ETF Purpose**

Shall the Town vote to expand the purpose of the Lagoon Maintenance and Repair Expendable Trust Fund to include the development of the closure plan as required by DES, with the Selectboard named as agents to expend. (Recommended by the Selectboard)  
(2/3 vote required)

**Article 20      Lagoon Maintenance & Repair ETF Deposit**

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000) to be placed in the Lagoon Maintenance and Repair Expendable Trust Fund. Said amount to come from the unassigned fund balance as of December 31, 2023. Current balance in the Lagoon Maintenance and Repair Expendable Trust Fund as of December 31, 2023: \$105,564.

(Majority vote required)

(No Tax Impact)

(Recommended by the Budget Committee 15-0)

(Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 4-0)

**Article 21      Transfer Station ETF Purpose**

Shall the Town vote to expand the purpose of the Transfer Station Facility Expendable Trust Fund to include the development of the closure plan as required by DES, with the Selectboard named as agents to expend. (Recommended by the Selectboard)  
(2/3 vote required)



**Article 22      Transfer Station Facility ETF Deposit**

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) to be deposited into the Transfer Station Facility Expendable Trust Fund previously established for the maintenance, improvement and repairs of the transfer station facility. Said amount to come from the unassigned fund balance as of December 31, 2023. Current balance in the Transfer Station Facility Expendable Trust Fund as of December 31, 2023: \$256,282.

(Majority vote required)

(No Tax Impact)

(Recommended by the Budget Committee 15-0)

(Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 4-0)

**Article 23      Highway Equipment Excavator Purchase**

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of eighty thousand dollars (\$80,000) for the purchase of a mini-excavator (15,000 lb) for the Highway Department.

(Majority vote required)

(Tax Estimate \$0.09)

(Recommended by the Budget Committee 8-7)

(Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 4-0)

**Article 24      Benefit Vested Time ETF Deposit**

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of twenty thousand dollars (\$20,000) to be added to the Benefit Vested Time Expendable Trust Fund previously established. Said amount to come from the unassigned fund balance as of December 31, 2023. Current balance in the Benefit Vested Time Expendable Trust Fund as of December 31, 2023: \$5,052.

(Majority vote required)

(No Tax Impact)

(Recommended by the Budget Committee 15-0)

(Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 4-0)

**Article 25      Rt 4 Recreation Fields Improvements**

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of thirty thousand dollars (\$30,000) to continue improvements to the recreation complex located on Rt 4 as recommended by the Recreation Commission, including but not limited to expansion of parking, improving drainage, loaming and seeding and general equipment and improvements to the existing fields.

(Majority vote required)

(Tax Estimate \$0.03)

(Recommended by the Budget Committee 15-0)

(Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 4-0)



**Article 26 Recreation Facilities CRF Deposit**

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of twenty thousand dollars (\$20,000) to be deposited into the Recreation Facility Capital Reserve Trust Fund previously established for the maintenance, improvement, and repairs of Town recreational facilities, beyond the capabilities of department personnel and equipment. Said amount to come from the unassigned fund balance as of December 31, 2023. Current balance in the Recreation Facility Capital Reserve Trust Fund as of December 31, 2023: \$1,363.

(Majority vote required)

(No Tax Impact)

(Recommended by the Budget Committee 15-0)

(Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 4-0)

**Article 27 Creating A full Time Assistant Librarian Position**

Shall the Town vote to approve creating a full-time assistant librarian position and to raise and appropriate the sum of twenty-four thousand two hundred and fifty-four dollars (\$24,254) to pay the additional wages and benefits not included in the proposed operating budget and further to authorize the Library Trustees and Budget Committee to include the necessary funds in future operating budgets to support this new full-time 35 hour per week position. This position is currently part time at approximately 30 hours/week.

(Majority vote required)

(Tax Estimate \$0.03)

(Recommended by the Budget Committee 9-2)

(Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 2-2)

**Article 28 Master Plan Update**

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of thirteen thousand two hundred dollars (\$13,200) to continue updating of the Town's Master Plan. This sum will provide for an update of the Economic Development chapter. Said amount to come from taxation.

(Majority vote required)

(Tax Estimate \$0.01)

(Recommended by the Budget Committee 14-0)

(Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 4-0)

**Article 29 Establish a Fire Hydrant Expendable Trust Fund**

Shall the Town vote to establish a Fire Hydrant Expendable Trust Fund to allow for the installation of, or the unanticipated repairs and replacement of the 20 Fire Hydrants within the Town of Northwood and raise and appropriate the sum of seven thousand, five hundred dollars (\$7,500) to be placed in said fund and further to name the Board of Selectmen as agents to expend from said fund without further authorization. Said amount to come from the unassigned fund balance as of December 31, 2023.

(Majority vote required)

(No Tax Impact)

(Recommended by the Budget Committee 13-2)

(Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 4-0)





**Article 30 Discontinue Police Station Expansion CRF**

Shall the Town vote to discontinue the Police Station Expansion Capital Reserve Fund (incorrectly referred to as Northwood Safety Complex since 2017). Said funds and accumulated interest to date of withdrawal, are to be transferred to the municipality's general fund. Current balance in the Police Station Expansion Capital Reserve Fund as of December 31, 2023: \$27,217  
(Majority vote required)

**Article 31 Discontinue Highway Safety Capital Reserve Fund**

Shall the town vote to discontinue the Highway Safety Capital Reserve Fund. Said funds and accumulated interest to date of withdrawal, are to be transferred to the municipality's general fund. Current balance in the Highway Safety Capital Reserve Fund as of December 31, 2023: \$737.  
(Majority vote required)

**Article 32 User Fee ETF Deposits**

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of eighty thousand five hundred and ninety-one dollars (\$80,591), to be placed in the following existing expendable trust funds created under RSA 31:19 - a. These amounts represent the amount of user fees deposited in the general fund in 2023 for these purposes, and the appropriation shall be funded by the withdrawal of the sum from the unexpended fund balance as of December 31, 2023. Current balances as of December 31, 2023: Cable Expendable Trust Fund \$86,284; Transfer Station Expendable Trust Fund \$256,282; and Cemetery Improvement Expendable Trust Fund: \$39,624.

Cable Expendable Trust Fund	\$ 474
Transfer Station Expendable Trust Fund	\$ 78,917
Cemetery Expendable Trust Fund	\$ 1,200

(Majority vote required)

(No Tax Impact)

(Recommended by the Budget Committee 14-0)

(Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 4-0)

**Article 33 Terrestrial Invasive Species ETF Deposit**

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of six thousand dollars (\$6,000) to be deposited into the previously established Terrestrial Invasive Species Expendable Trust Fund. Current balance in the Terrestrial Invasive Species Expendable Trust Fund as of December 31, 2023: \$6,939.

(Majority vote required)

(Tax Estimate \$0.01)

(Recommended by the Budget Committee 11-0)

(Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 4-0)

**Article 34 Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention ETF Deposit**

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of eleven thousand five hundred dollars (\$11,500) to be deposited into the previously established Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention & Control Expendable Trust Fund. Current balance in the Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention & Control Expendable Trust Fund as of December 31, 2023: \$122.

(Majority vote required)

(Tax Estimate \$0.01)

(Recommended by the Budget Committee 10-0-1)

(Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 4-0)



**Article 35 Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention ETF Purpose**

Shall the Town vote to expand the purpose of the existing Aquatic Invasive Prevention ETF, created 2017, to include the prevention of bacterial contaminate, and further to recognize education as an effective prevention mechanism for these conditions, with the Selectboard named as agents to expend. (Recommended by the Selectboard)

(2/3 vote required)

**Article 36 Aquatic Invasive Species Treatment ETF Purpose**

Shall the Town vote to expand the purpose of the existing Aquatic Invasive Species Treatment & Control ETF, created 2003 and amended 2015, to include the control of bacterial contaminate, and further to recognize education as an effective control mechanism for these conditions, with the Selectboard named as agents to expend. (Recommended by the Selectboard)

(2/3 vote required)

**Article 37 Conservation Easements**

Shall the Town vote to authorize the conveyance of conservation easements to be held by Bear-Paw Regional Greenways, a recognized nonprofit land trust, for the following Town owned land for the purposes of preservation of wildlife habitat, forestry, and passive recreations, as recommended by the Conservation Commission. All costs associated with the conveyances shall be paid by the Conservation Commission.

Map 244, Lot 11 (32 Acres)

Map 244, Lot 42 School Lots (102 Acres)

Map 235, Lot 40 Giles Lot (29 Acres)

Map 236, Lot 9 Parsonage Lot (196 Acres)

Map 242, Lot 20 Deslaurier Lot (24 Acres)

Ownership and Management of the subject lots shall remain with the Town of Northwood.

(Recommended by the Selectmen)

(Majority vote required)

(No Tax Impact)

**Article 38 250th Anniversary ETF Purpose**

Shall the Town vote to change the purpose of the existing 250th Anniversary ETF, to the 275th Anniversary ETF, to support efforts to recognize the Town's 275th Anniversary in 2048, with the Selectboard named as agents to expend. (Recommended by the Selectmen)

(2/3 vote required)

**Article 39 Lease of Church Facilities**



**Article 39**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of thirty-nine thousand dollars five hundred dollars (\$39,500) for a one-year lease including utilities of handicapped accessible meeting/hall space, fully equipped kitchen, and bathrooms for the purpose of a community center on property adjacent to Coe Brown Northwood Academy at Northwood Congregational Church. Submitted by petition.

(Majority vote required)

(Tax Estimate \$0.04)

(Recommended by the Budget Committee 9-5)

(Not Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 4-0)

**Article 40**

**Land Use Admin. Assist.**

To see if the Town will vote, in the event of the proposed 2024 town budget not passing, to raise and appropriate the sum of seventeen thousand five hundred fifty-seven dollars (\$17,557) to provide one-time funding to pay the additional wages not included in the default budget for a part-time 20 hours a week Land Use Administrative Assistant. Said amount to come from taxation. Submitted by petition.

(Majority vote required)

(Tax Estimate \$0.02)

(Recommended by the Budget Committee 13-1)

(Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 4-0)

**Article 41**

**Building Inspector/Code Enforcement**

To see if the Town will vote, in the event of the proposed 2024 town budget not passing, to approve the extending the current part-time code enforcement and building inspector position to full-time and to raise and appropriate the sum of forty-eight thousand three hundred seventy-five dollars (\$48,375) to pay the additional wages and benefits not included in the default budget. Said amount to come from taxation. This position is currently 25 hours per week. Submitted by petition.

(Majority vote required)

(Tax Estimate \$0.05)

(Recommended by the Budget Committee 13-1)

(Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 4-0)

**Article 42**

**Recording of Public Meetings**

To see if the Town will vote to require all meetings of elected public bodies to be video recorded and posted onto the Town website.

(Majority vote required). Submitted by petition.

**Article 43**

**Vehicle Purchases on Warrant**

By Petition - To see if the Town will vote to require the Board of Selectmen to place the funding of all town vehicle purchases on the annual town warrant for approval by voters prior to any funds being expended for the purpose of vehicle acquisition, including either purchase or lease.

Submitted by petition.

(Majority vote required)