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Town of Northumberland
Board of Selectmen
Meeting Minutes - Draft
Date: Monday, July 7, 2025
Place: Town Meeting Room – 10 Station Square
Time: 6:00 P.M.

Board members present: Al Rossetto, Jim Weagle
Others present: Ed Robinson, Ryan Perkins, George Kenison, C. R. Wheeler, Deb Miles, Kathy Frechette, Jim Tierney, Pete Marshall, Norm Cotter, Richard Archer, Nancy Merrow, Bill Baxley, William Daisey, Glenn Cassady, Robin Ramsdell-Cassady, Natalie Marquis, Judy Fox, Braedon Greene, Adriana Dano, Jodi Paradis, Andre Brasseur, Britannia Jurentkuff, Anna Belanger, Ryan Shannon, Sheila Smith, Melissa Dana, Doug Dano, Starlyn Dupont, Jennifer Goulet, Terri & Reggie Charron, Rebecca St Cyr-Minute Taker

1. **Chairman Opens the Meeting:** J. Weagle opened the meeting at 6:00 pm.

2. **Pledge of Allegiance** - All

3. **Acceptance of Minutes:** 06/16/2025

   Motion to approve the 06/16/25 minutes by: A. Rossetto
   2nd by: J. Weagle, All in Favor 2-0

   C. Wheeler noted the Board needs to nominate a new Chairman. J. Weagle said he was appointed as Vice Chairman and will fill in until the Board has a new third member, then we will appoint the Chairman.

4. **Department Head Business:** Highway/Water/Sewer

   Highway – Glenn Cassady, Town Road Agent
   - Getting the Town pool ready was done before he went on vacation.
   - Keith is back from an injury, we are back to a full crew.
   - The chemicals were delivered, he added 5 buckets for 6 days in a row.
   - Last week the crew got the line painting done.
   - Started digging on the lot for the new steel storage building, will set the grades and dig the trenches to get ready for the concrete.
   - Went to pick up Randy's truck, it was in Barre, VT for repair. The bill hasn't been received yet, there is money in the budget to cover it.
   - The priority is the steel building and finding a contractor to put it together for us.
   - We need to pick a section of sidewalk to start working on.
   - Glenn needs to contact Tammy re: the Herman Savage culvert. He needs to find out where we are with it. With people getting done and moving on, we are finding things are in limbo with a lot of projects. Glenn further discussed.
   - We are trying to keep up with the mowing.
   - Glenn commended the W/S Dept for helping with the line painting.

   C. Wheeler asked about the Brown Rd. being striped; where is it now? Glenn said it was done last year, but gets scraped up by the plows, it's a common thing. Wheeler asked if we will pay money every year to have it done? Glenn said originally we weren't going to do it. Chris said that comment was never brought up.

Wheeler asked about the potholes on the west side of Grand View; Glenn has looked at it, it needs asphalt, gravel won't stay in it. Glenn would rather wait until fall and put a skim coat over it. Reggie gave an example: we put down $5,000 into a spot on State St., the State mandated us to get it done and it will be torn up this summer. Wheeler said since Grandview Dr. was taken out of the hill project, why can't it be fixed. Glenn said it's beyond patching

Water/Sewer – Reggie Charron, Superintendent

- A line on Pinette St. has a 6" spiral fracture that was found.
- American Leak Detection came in the week of June 16 – 20th, we had no leaks. They did a thorough job.
- Hill Project – it's going better since we got Cumberland done. The sewer has been done to the end of Cumberland and almost up to High St. Our intent is to get water in next and before fall/winter; get Cumberland done, get halfway up Maple and down High St. and then getting a base coat down. If there is time, will start on Crow Hill. We blasted about 300', we went from about $1.6 million extra to approx. $500,000. We didn't get any damage, the blasting crew were amazing. We are dealing with some large boulders on Maple, which is better than ledge.
- First of the month he has all the testing to be done. DES and EPA are requiring a lot of extra testing, more mandates, and more money to be spent. The extra testing has to be done in July, Aug & Sept.
- Waste Water- Talked about getting a new muffin monster replacement last year. He got a quote last November, it's a lot of money. He got a quote today, now we are in an emergency situation, he has copies for the Board. The current one was put in 10 years ago, the cost was $19,146 – the whole process. The new one now is $12,383.30; they held the quote from November. This is an unexpected cost, but we have a contingency fund for that, and we put money into it yearly for this purpose. There is one for Water and Sewer. The Board said the account will cover it. If the Board approves, he will get it ordered.

Motion to take from the Contingency Fund for the Sewer $12,383.30 to replace the grinder at the lagoons by: A. Rossette, 2nd by: J. Weagle, All in Favor 2-0

We get a lot of rags and it cuts them up so that the biological treatment can break it down. We've had some bad luck with aerators down there, we got one fixed that we lost in February. Last week another one tripped out, he's not sure if it's electrical or a heater. Ron Caron will be getting on it.
Reggie said he did go through with the rebuilds, new ones are $3,600 – he's getting 2 rebuilt for $4800. He has the money set aside for this.

5. Requested Agenda Matters:

a. Summer Open Roads For 4-Wheelers - Bill Daisey – as far as he knows the Board hasn't opened the roads yet. He understands the Board is the authority to open them. J. Weagle said we did, we opened Melcher, Main, and State up to the pool. T. Charron asked if a sign that's just past the funeral home can be moved closer to the pool. J. Weagle will call the State to have it moved. She would also like her moose and deer sign put back up, it was removed for the ATV sign.

b. Granite Guild Tax Exemption and Insurance Coverage For Event – R. Archer said we submitted the paperwork to the State requesting approval to tax exemption for the building they purchased on Lancaster Rd. It's for a food pantry, small business annex and community center. At this point he is asking what the Boards position for approval on this is. J. Weagle said we need the financials, and the tax exemption certificate from the Feds.

A. Rossetto said Clint sent him a letter regarding the $5,000 that was approved at Town Meeting; R. Archer noted what was purchased: a MAC computer, 3 - I-Pads, a hub for the internet and communications in the building, software, and other peripherals. Rick has sent a thank you letter to the Town, it will be posted on the web-site. Al said we like to keep the public informed on where the money is spent.

R. Archer said the Granite Guild is looking to partner with Starlyn Dupont to get some other activities going in conjunction with the Farmers Market. Wednesday nights – now until Oct. 1, this

will be one of several. J. Weagle explained we only Town sponsor events for non-profits and not businesses. Starlyn said she is grateful for the opportunity to do this.

Motion to approve the Glow Party at the small ballfield on July 30th, it will be Town sponsored under the Granite Guild by: A. Rossetto, 2nd by: J. Weagle, All in Favor 2-0

c. Elected Official Matter - We have an opening on the Board, anyone that's interested can submit a letter of interest to Niki at the Town Office. At the next meeting we will review any letters received, all discussions and decisions will be made during the public session. It will be an appointment until March and then they can run for a term.

6. Town Business:

a. Compactor – This has been previously discussed, Keith wanted to review before approving. The Board had decided to go with the new one instead of used. The one we have is 30 years old.

Motion to approve the purchase of a new compactor for the Transfer Station in the amount of – $33,124 by: A. Rossetto
2nd by: J. Weagle, All in Favor 2-0

C. Wheeler commented there were 2 bids; (per the minutes from 06/16)
Atlantic Recycling & Equipment, LLC
Recycling Mechanical of New England, LLC

b. DES Grant – R. Charron said this is a $60,000 grant from DES for the LCR, he was contacted by Rick S. and he was pushing this for us. He feels it will help us with the mandates. Reggie said he needs a certificate of a vote to accept the money; insurance cert of coverage with DES as additional insured. If we can get this done asap, the money will be available right away. There are some property owner lines on the hill that are in bad shape. There are 3-4 on Cumberland St. They will need to work with us and this money might help him to get the work done and then set up a payment plan with the homeowner. There are grants available for up to 60% on the dollar with low interest. This money will help us and the homeowner. The average can be $1,500 and $3,000 to replace a water line. He's been told that he can use it for potholing (digging up the curbside) and up to $10,000 in overtime for us.

Motion to accept a grant from NHDES Drinking Water Revolving Fund set aside **under CFDA** #66.468 by: A. Rossetto
2nd by: J. Weagle, All in Favor 2-0

K. Frechette asked if he knows which ones will be needed and will the owners be notified? Reggie said as soon as he can. We haven't gotten to the water lines yet, but when they hooked up homes to the temporary water, some were in bad shape. As soon as we know we will get onto it right away. He want's homes to have their water. He's glad the grant came his way. Rick wants to meet with him, the Selectmen, and new Town Administrator to discuss another grant.

c. Beautification Committee – Al has been told that one of the volunteers on the committee has not been reimbursed for flowers that was purchased. He would like the Beautification Committee to get this paid or come in and explain why it hasn't been paid.

7. Applications/Permits and Warrants:

A. Rossetto explained the Building Permits will now be called Zoning Permits. We can't have a building permit unless we do building inspections. We have not done inspections, because we don't have a licensed inspector. There is no other change, when a building permit, we were checking to make sure it was zoned properly and the setbacks were right, frontage, etc. Taxes are based on fair market value of your real property. The Town needs to be aware of real property to keep the tax base current and as accurate as possible.

a. Building Permit (1):
1. 5 Sunset Court, permit was placed in Nov 24 – there were some issues. This is a follow up on the issues. This is housekeeping.

Motion to approve by: A. Rossetto, 2nd by: J. Weagle, All in Favor 2-0

b. Transfer Station Permit (1):
1. Map/Lot 246-021, renewal – Jonathan Wicks, 292 Page Hill, paid the fee.

Motion to approve by: A. Rossetto, 2nd by: J. Weagle, All in Favor 2-0

c. Permit To Bait (1):
1. Map/Lot 207-004-00-00, to bait bear. On Bag Hill - Patrick Wyatt works for the State. When the Board approves it will go to the State. 1.5 miles up Bag Hill Rd. from Northside Rd.

Motion to approve by: A. Rossetto, 2nd by: J. Weagle, All in Favor 2-0

The Board further discussed the permit, location, it's on Town forest. J. Tierney asked if technically isn't the Conservation Commission in charge of the Town forest? J. Weagle said they manage the land the Select Board gives permission.

K. Frechette asked if he's baiting to kill the bear or mark it? J. Weagle said he works for the State; Al thinks it's commercial and he brings in hunters to bait, and shoot. Jim said but it's controlled by the State. J. Tierney asked how much money we receive from this? Why are we allowing them to shot bears on Town property. D. Gaudette commented if he's making money, then the Town should be receiving some of it. If it's not a nuisance, leave them alone. Discussion continued about the permit.

Motion to rescind the motion to approve by: A. Rossetto, 2nd by: J. Weagle, All in Favor 2-0

Motion to table until the next meeting for further explanation by: A. Rossetto
2nd by: J. Weagle, All in Favor 2-0

R. Shannon said he's been on some of these types of adventures and we tax everything in this Town,

d. Elderly Tax Exemption (1): Map/Lot 104-220 – The Board reviewed the application
Motion to table by: A. Rossetto, 2nd by: J. Weagle, All in Favor 2-0

There isn't enough info to know if she qualifies or not.

e. Intent To Cut (2):
1. Map/Lot 216-002 – Chris Nelson is the cutter, J. Weagle reviewed the cut
Motion to approve by: A. Rossetto, 2nd by: J. Weagle, All in Favor 2-0

Terri asked if this is the person that has been cutting w/o a permit? Are there any fines? J. Weagle said as a Town we can't issue a fine; that's up to the State Forester.

2. Map/Lot 206-001- Marcus Spears, Richard Dupuis is the cutter – J. Weagle reviewed the cut.
Motion to approve by: A. Rossetto, 2nd by: J. Weagle, All in Favor 2-0

8. **Public Comment:

- Debbie Gaudette – She doesn't know what happened to our police force, we had a damn good police department. Some left because of Town politics, she asked what's going on that now we don't have any coverage? She heard them say that only certain roads are open to ATV's, yet I have ATV's on Rich St. all the time, driven by children dragging along another ATV frame. There are children on the street driving their parents pickup truck from Rich St. to West St. And now we have to rely on State Police.

Do you know how long it takes to get the State Police here? She was a dispatcher, it's puts a lot of stress on them. And when someone has an emergency and it takes 45 min to an hour for a State Trooper to get here because the Town can't keep a police department. When she grew up here we never had a problem keeping a PD. What has changed so that we can't keep a PD.

A. Rossetto said Facebook!! The PD was vilified, the Town Office was vilified. A number of files in the Town's computer have disappeared. One of the files deleted was the Master Plan, which we are required to have. Volunteers spent 150 hours working on updating it; it wasn't easy finding all the information / data that was needed. This is the reason we are having problems, all the hard work is gone because of a small group people.

J. Weagle said other towns can offer more money for their PD. The Chief planned to retire later this year and had to retire earlier than expected. We have put out an ad for a new chief, once we have a Chief in place, then we can start rebuilding the department. It's big money to hire officers, we are trying to do with what we have but it takes time to rebuild. D. Gaudette asked what they are going to do to offer; Lancaster, Littleton and Berlin pay a lot more, but Colebrook might be more comparable. Have you checked with them on their budget? Al said we have to start with the Police Chief position.

D. Gaudette noted there are things happening in our town; there were fights at the track that took 15 troopers, and several officers from other towns. J. Weagle said we do have other towns that will help to an extent - we are working on it. D. Gaudette said you have to assure the people of this Town that they will be taken care of. When she came back here 5 years ago, there was a meeting about building a new PD but some of the Town didn't want it. Al said it was voted down 2-1 at Town Meeting. Gaudette said right now we are paying Coos County funds to Grafton County, so our tax dollars are going to another county. Al said we had an excellent opportunity for a Public Safety building, he thinks when it was voted down, it was the first step leading to this situation. Rossetto commented who would want to volunteer here when your work gets thrown away. D. Gaudette said that should have been in a secure file; Al said it was and we are working on that.

- Natalie Marquis – Beautification Committee, you talked about someone needing to be paid, but what's going on with the train? J. Weagle said it's being worked on, it will need to go out to bid, it needs to put in the paper, etc. She asked him to address this at the next meeting.

- S. Dupont – since we don't have a PD who employee's the crossing guards? Does she go to the State Police? J. Weagle said it still goes through the Town / PD at this time.

- Jenn Goulet – asked if the funds the Grow Program through the PD can be reallocated to welfare so the fund can be used for what it was designed for? J. Weagle said it still can be allocated the same way, it comes out of that line in the budget.

- S. Smith asked if the Town can ask the racetrack owners to police it themselves? J. Weagle said you can hire a security firm but they can't make arrests. D. Gaudette commented they would have to pay another dept. a salary to bring an officer or 2 in. They would have to form a special detail (which is up to $120/hour), it's very expensive and they probably wouldn't to that. B. Daisey said you would also need to someone that would request assistance. If you have to use force it has to be someone in the jurisdiction if it's the State Police they have jurisdiction. At this point it's him.

- R. Perkins commented the check from the Beautification Committee was received today.

- George Kenison asked how many applications have we received for the police department? J. Weagle said one so far. The other positions - Niki has decided to stay with us, we are still working on a Town Administrator. The applicants that have applied don't have all the qualifications needed. C. Wheeler asked if there have been any applications for Town Administrator? J. Weagle said we have had a few but they don't have all the qualifications, so we are still working on it. A big piece is the financial, we've asked a couple of firms to take us and they've turned us down. A. Rossetto said the applicants have qualifications, but not municipal government or financial experience. We are trying really hard to

find a good candidate for a very complex and daunting position. Jim and Al further discussed, it's a work in progress.

- G. Kenison said the flag displayed on the covered bridge is tattered and torn and it's not lite at night. He will gladly remove it and take care of it. Al asked if he could work with the Beautification Committee on the flag. Illuminating it, he didn't discuss.

- Al said if we don't start working together as a Town, it's going to get worse. If you were coming to the Town as a business or family and find out we don't have a PD, the Town Office is only open part time due to being short staffed, the Ambulance can't get attendants due to an inadequate facility; and then look at the tax rate; it's not a very attractive place. If we are just going to keep tearing it down, our taxes will go up because we will need to pay a premium to bring people here.

- N. Merrow asked if we are permitting fireworks, are people applying for permits. Andre said we have an ordinance that has certain dates that allows them and he hasn't had any requests for other dates. Nancy said there was one really large boom, are we enforcing that to happen. J. Weagle said the fire department can shut them down.

- N. Merrow – re: zoning – if there are places in Town on a residential street and there are 8-10 vehicles (some registered and some not), and maybe there are more; why are they allowed in a residential area. J. Weagle said we can send letters, fine, etc. but it's hard to enforce. Nancy said the people beside them are impacted on their tax rate because of it, some of the vehicles have for a sale sign on them, so it's a business, it's not residential. J. Weagle said we've had 2 that went to court and we lost. N. Marquis asked if they are unregistered and put a for sale sign on it does that make it ok? J. Weagle said you are allowed to have one unregistered vehicle on your property. Some will register them or they say they are working on them, but in the meantime bring more in. We can't tow unless it's in our right of way.

- S. Smith asked how can there be 10 vehicles in your yard and have them all registered? That seems unrealistic. Can they be asked to move them. We are trying to get our town cleaned up and everyone working together, some are not happy with it. She doesn't want to see it covered up. J. Weagle said the new law effective in January all you have to do is register, you don't need to inspect them. Currently we have tried that. Right now, we are just functioning as a Town. Without a PD none of the Town employees are going on any property. A. Rossetto noted that P. Marshall has a licensed junk yard any others are just unregistered junk yards. We don't have many tools to enforce the Town regulations on any of these things. He said at this time we are in dire straits; and we will need to pay a premium to get anyone.

- S. Dupont noted that we are trying to make the Town better, but there are a lot of bullies!! There are people that want to do good, but get turned down. For example, she wanted to do the Glow Party on the last day of school, but it was turned down because she didn't have insurance. J. Weagle said we have never sponsored any business, only non-profits and that's what our insurance company requires.

- S. Smith mentioned there is a sign in the tri-angle that doesn't have any paint on it. Can it be taken down so it can be re-painted. J. Weagle said we looked into before and we think it's one of the State agencies that own It. We need to find who owns it, because it's on the Scenic Bi-way and we can't touch it until we know.

- K. Frechette – kudo's to the Board, the Bearce St. sign was knocked down, she called once and it was put back up; kudo's to whoever fixed her water as well.

- J. Paradis – re: the American flag - she suggested letting George Kenison take care of the flag. R. Perkins also offered to take care of it. Al suggested they can work together.

9. Announcements:

Next Board Meeting Date: Monday, July 21, 2025 at 6:00 p.m.

This Institution Is An Equal Opportunity Provider And Employer

10. Non-Public Session: (Pursuant to RSA 91-A:3, II (a)(b)(c):

Motion to go into Non-Public session by: A. Rossetto
2nd by: J. Weagle
Roll Call: A. Rossetto – Yes; J. Weagle - Yes

Into Non-Public session at 7:31 pm.

a. Fire Dept Matter
b. Employee Matter
c. Residential
d. Elected Official Matter - discussed in public session.

Motion to adjourn the Non-Public session by: A. Rossetto
2nd by: J. Weagle, All in Favor 2-0

Out of Non-Public session at 8:11pm

Into Regular Session at 8:11 pm

Motion to approve Brian Boudle for the Fire Dept by: A. Rossetto
2nd by: J. Weagle, All in Favor 2-0

11. Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn by: A. Rossetto
2nd by: J. Weagle

Meeting adjourned at 8:12 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca St Cyr, Minute Taker

*Agenda is subject to change

**Deadline for Agenda items is 12:00 noon on the Friday before scheduled business meeting (by vote of Board of Selectmen at 7/11/2005 meeting). This deadline may be amended by the Board of Selectmen at will (by vote of Board of Selectmen at 06/17/2024 meeting).