Town of
Northumberland
Office of Selectmen
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Town of Northumberland
Board of Selectmen
Meeting Minutes - Draft
Date: Tuesday September 2, 2025
Place: Town Meeting Room – 10 Station Square
Time: 6:00 P.M.

Board Members present: Jim Weagle, Al Rossetto
Others present: Ryan Perkins, Bill Baxtley, Nancy Merrow, Deb Miles, Kathy Wiles, Sheila Smith, Jim Tierney, Dean Wiles, Richard Watson, C. R. Wheeler, Glenn Cassady, Kathy Frechette, Debbie Montgomery, Kim Bronson, Wayne Montgomery, Britannia Jurentkuff, Melissa Dano, Doug Dano, Elaine Gray, Starlyn Dupont, Terri Charron, Rejean Bissonette, Pete Marshall, Norm Cotter, Megan Adjutant, Robin Irving, Reggie Charron, Courtney Perkins, Judy Fox, Jerry Monahan, Rebecca St. Cyr – Minute Taker

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

2. **Pledge of Allegiance** – All

3. **Acceptance of the minutes for Aug.18 meeting**
   Motion to approve the Aug. 18, 2025 minutes by: A. Rossetto
   2nd by: J. Weagle, All in Favor 2-0

4. **Department Head Business: Highway and Water/Sewer**
   Highway – Glenn Cassady, Road Agent
   As of last Tuesday, we are back to full staff.
   Received 14 cord of wood, between Glenn, Randy, and some help from the W/S crew, we got it done.
   Roadside mowing has been doing the back roads. We went out and did some riveting on obstacles that he wouldn't see. It's the same company but a new operator. He didn't know the route. Reggie wanted some of his roads done, which were done as well.
   The pool closed 2 weeks ago, W/S went in to remove the check valves, water meter and Glenn pulled things to let it start draining. It will be winterized in the next few weeks.
   The cold patch came in.
   This month is State Inspection month, Randy will be working on that for all the vehicles and equipment.
   Received parts for sanders we need to change sprockets and bearings and will be doing that this fall.
   New steel garage, most of its done, they are spray foaming it and will put the doors in. It should be completed in the next week or so, then we can move in. Glenn wants to get the old one torn down and cleaned up soon.
   Glenn wants to do some sidewalks. We haven't done any Town paving; he waiting to see how things on the hill will turn out. He wants to do a shim coat on Grand View. Glenn further discussed the paving and will get the numbers to further review.
   It's getting on to winter projects. The roadsides look good, will be doing fall grading in October.

   Water/Sewer – Reggie Charron, W/S Superintendent
   Reggie was out for a water break but made it to the meeting a little late.
   He said we did get the grant for $60,000 grant that was applied for, there is a kick-off meeting next week.

5. **Requested Agenda Matters:**
   a. **Ryan Perkins** – Ryan showed the Board a picture and discussed a project he would like to do over by the bridge to clean the area up and put up a flagpole. J. Weagle said the brush near the river is there because of the geese; it would need to stay there. Glenn said there used to be a fence there, now that it's grown up they

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don't come in there. K. Wiles asked about the kiosk; J. Weagle said it belongs to MOM's, they wanted us to buy it for the Town, it was a lot of money and we would have had to keep the wi-fi going.

A. Rossetto thinks it's a great idea that he wants to make the entrance to the Town more attractive. It would give people a reason to stop. A real flagpole and flag would draw attention; the caboose – if we can make it look nice. Glenn noted that in the past we had picnic tables there, but they ended up in the river. If we got metal ones and anchored them down it would look nice. Al feels it worth pursuing. Ryan said the bids for the train repair have been submitted. Al noted that we will see what we can do to be helpful. J. Weagle said we would work with him.

b. **Groveton Beautification** –
R. Perkins – Groveton Beautification would like to hold the Trunk or Treat on October 25th at the small ballfield. Ryan said they have paperwork from the IRS that Groveton Beautification is non-profit, so it will be Town sponsored. It will be from 5:00 pm – 9:00 pm. The plan is to have a bonfire, DJ, and food trucks.

> Motion to approve the Trunk or Treat event on Oct 25th at the small ballfield,
> the Town will sponsor by: A. Rossetto
> 2nd by: J. Weagle, All in Favor 2-0

D. Montgomery commented that she is involved with doing the flowers with Sheila and Elaine. She asked about the Groveton Beautification committee and where the money comes from. Is it private or part of the Town? J. Weagle said it's not part of the Town, it's a separate entity. We request money from the Town and get $5,000 yearly and we get private donations – one is for $1,000.

B. Auger discussed the Beautification Committee. It was set up for flowers, it was through the Town and it was in the reports, we had meetings. It wasn't for painting, it was strictly for flowers, banners, barrels, benches. It was set up under the Town; she feels the name needs to be changed. J. Weagle said they are now non-profit. There are a lot of organizations that get money from the Town, we don't know what they do with that money. Bonnie said the account at the bank used the Town's ID, J. Weagle said it doesn't any longer. Bonnie will talk to someone about the name and getting it changed. D. Montgomery asked why it was changed. J. Weagle explained over the years, people would drop off the committee, etc. Jim said it hasn't been using the Town's ID for a while. Bonnie thought maybe 2 years. She feels it needs to come up at Town Meeting and things will change. We don't have any money and we have to go to the bank and identify who we are, who the account is under and that's how it started. There might not have been very much funds in the end but that's going to change. She thinks people are getting confused who the Beautification Committee is. That's going to have to change. K. Wiles noted that a report was requested on the funds and how it was spent, it wasn't provided. This was at the last Town Meeting and 2 meetings since. It has not been brought into the Town Office; nobody seems to know where the money goes. If it was there might not be controversy.

S. Smith asked who is on the committee, when the last meeting and discussion of what will beautify our Town other than the Trick or Treat party. Her point is how much money do we have left and how much has been spent since March beautifying the Town. It's a lot of money and people want to know where it goes. D. Montgomery asked Jim as a Selectmen, don't you want to know where the money is being spent. Jim said Courtney should be the one answering. M. Adjutant asked when we will know where the money is being spent. It's been asked many times. N. Merrow for 3+ years she started asking at Town Meeting for the expenses, and income and it hasn't happened. J. Weagle said it was put on someone else and they haven't done it. This is what we are asking for – tell us how much is brought in and from whom and expenses paid out and to whom. As a Librarian Trustee, she has to account for everything. J. Weagle said if money is approved this year, he will make sure it's done for the previous year.

B. Auger asked if they need help to figure out how to do it.

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S. Smith – she drives by the garden at the Library, it needs a lot help!! That's beautification. No one has called Elaine or Debbie or her to ask if we want to be involved in cleaning it out. She wonders what Jim and Courtney is really doing with the money from the Town.

Bill Baxtley expressed frustration about the process J. Weagle uses to call on people. Bill suggested that if other committees are providing reports and this one is not – then the Town should not give them any money.

E. Gray said she is not on the Beautification Committee and never has been. She watered the flowers because she was in the Town office. Now she is a volunteer who wants to make sure the Town look nice. Elaine discussed the park, cleaning it up, weeding it but it really needs some TLC. She knows it needs to come from the Beautification.

Wayne Montgomery asked how big of a job is it to figure out what has been spent? It's should be pretty simple and we shouldn't have to wait until next year to see it.

C. McLain commented the money that comes in is solely from the Town, we don't do or ask for anything else. If anyone needs anything for the flowers (she has been adamant that she wouldn't do the flowers) any flowers that any of the ladies have wanted, they can go get them and get their money back. Courtney further discussed the flowers and locations. Her first year on the Committee she cleaned up at the park, as far as she knew Sheila or Bonnie had nothing to do it. If anyone wants anything they can ask, Courtney feels the bigger issue is with her and not with the Beautification.

B. Auger – her biggest problem is the money had to be taken from one account and put into another one and that's not right. Bonnie said that she and Jodi did had to step away for a period of time. It's more of a job than one or two people can do. Bonnie is able to step back in and she will do the reports – the money was kept at the bank with the Town's ID, it was never in a book in our home. Now she finds it's been taken away from the bank. She had to plan ahead, we knew when we were going to buy flowers, etc. Courtney said there is no check book – It's all at the bank and further discussed her process. She keeps track through the statements. Megan asked if we can get an answer from Courtney as to when she can provide a report since so many are asking for it. Courtney said she can provide it, she has no need to, she doesn't have to. J. Weagle said we go for Town money next year, we will do a report for the next Town Report. Courtney said she has never been asked for a report.

S. Smith doesn't agree that Trunk or Treat is Beautification. J. Weagle said we felt that Beautification was to help the community, we are helping by giving the kids a fun event to come to and it gets the community out, plus the kids are safe. We are working with another organization so they can get food. This isn't just for adults but all generations.

Courtney commented if the name needs to be changed, she doesn't have a problem changing it. If the women want to keep it Beautification, she will keep the account open and her name will come off of it. She didn't see anyone stepping up when Jody was having her health issues.

S. Dupont – She is appreciative for Courtney and the Beautification group. If it weren't for them we wouldn't be having as many events as we are having. Thank you for making the community better.

Chris Wheeler – asked about Trunk or Treat being ahead of Halloween so they get it twice? J. Weagle said it's not a Trick or Treat where they go around town, it's centralized. Lancaster having theirs on the Friday before. Courtney explained we have had it in different locations and on different days, the best day has been on a Saturday when the most can participate. Courtney further discussed.

All in Favor 2-0

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c. **Complaint - Gazebo Damage –**
J. Weagle read the complaint that was submitted. From the Boards standpoint, if we find out who did it. We are going to ask the State Police to come in and look at it. If you see something going on, let us know. We do not what this to continue.

D. Montgomery mentioned that we have been told who did it and the initials kind of give them away!!! We have been told by someone that witnessed it, however she didn't witnessed herself. J. Weagle told her to give the info to the Town Office. Elaine had planted perennials, some have been pulled up, we've worked very hard on the flowers this summer, to keep them watered, etc. We want people to notice, we all care about the flowers and want the Town to look better.

The gazebo is owned by the Town, the benches were special made for it. Courtney had them made, we got them last year. We paid over $800.00 for them. She and her family have put a lot of time at the gazebo area; cleaning up dog poop and trash. It's hard to stop people from carving their initials. J. Weagle noted that we do have a camera, but it's not the best. R. Irving commented that the Town owns the gazebo, but we don't own the land. It's under a 99 year lease agreement with the owner who has conditions. If it affects the value of his property, he can ask to have it removed. We should be taking care of it and be vigilant about watching it. J. Monahan asked for clarification about the benches.

R. Perkins asked about the Police Chief – J. Weagle said we are working on it, not ready to make any comment.

Al – wanted to make a motion to upgrade the security cameras, the vandalism isn't going to go away. J. Weagle suggested looking into the options for security cameras before doing that.

J. Monahan asked if there are there lights at the gazebo – solar only. Light might deter them. C. Perkins about a quote for a new security system. J. Weagle noted that it still wouldn't reach over there.

E. Gray said there is black mold on the inside of it, it anyone wants to help her clean it.

N. Cotter asked if we go to the Town Office instead of the Selectmen? J. Weagle said we are not always there and we don't see everyone. Al reminded Norm that he has his phone #.

6. **Town Office Matters:**
a. AVRRDD – Appointment of an alternate representative on the AVRRDD Board.
Motion to appoint Kathy Wiles as an alternate representative
on the AVRRDD Board by: A. Rossetto, 2nd by: J. Weagle, All in Favor 2-0

7. **Applications/Permits and Warrants:**
a. Zoning Permits (1): Map/Lot: 215-002-00-00; Robert Chapman – Solar – 281 Cumberland St.
Motion to approve the permit for a solar array by: A. Rossetto, 2nd by: J. Weagle, All in Favor 2-0

b. Non-Resident Transfer Permit (2):
Map/Lot: 104-249-00-00; James Melanson, 14 High St. Apt 1. Fee is paid
Motion to approve by: A. Rossetto, 2nd by: J. Weagle, All in Favor 2-0

Map/Lot: 251-014-00-00; Lyle Czuchra, 10 Longview Drive
Motion to approve by: A. Rossetto, 2nd by: J. Weagle, All in Favor 2-0

c. Abatements: Housekeeping abatements –
1. 104-191-00-00 – $764.00 - Gaudette
2. 104-187-00-00 - $919.00 - Covil

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3. 105-010-00-00 - $1,346.00 - Blodgett
4. 205-009-00-00 - $150.00 – Town of Northumberland
5. 205-011-00-00 - $282.00 – Town of Northumberland

Motion to approve the 5 Housekeeping abatements as shown above by: A. Rossetto
2nd by: J. Weagle, All in Favor 2-0

8. ****Public Comment:**
   - N. Cotter – status on the Selectmen? There is a court hearing on Sept 9.
   - R. Perkins asked for the status for a Town Administrator. J. Weagle said we will possibly be having more interviews on Thursday.
   - C. Wheeler asked about a project update, it's supposed to be the 1st meeting of the month? The Board said we forgot to ask them, we will try to get them in for the next meeting.
   - J. Monahan asked how long have people been asking for where the Beautification money goes. J. Weagle commented that we already discussed and didn't discuss further.

9. **Announcements:** Planning Board monthly meeting, Wednesday, September 3, 2025. Informational re: changes relative to ADU's. Al briefly discussed ADU's.

   Deb Miles – if she wanted to put an ADU behind her house, is there criteria on the lot size or a limit to 1 or 2 units? Al – you are limited to one, he believes that the setback rules are reduced or waived for this instance. This is new, it's become a matter of right. J. Tierney said the setbacks still need to be enforced, you can't put an ADU right on the property line. R. Irving noted that J. Tierney is correct, it has to go to zoning. There is language in the new amendment that says the Boards shall afford leniency for set-backs and frontage. Reggie asked what we do charge? We have the right for the demand fee. The State has a mandate that every new development has their own water line. Deb would need to run a separate line to the ADU at her expense. Reggie said that anyone in the Village could not do this because of the limitations on water unless they put in their own well / septic.

10. **Next Board Meeting Date:** Tuesday, Sept. 15 at 6:00 p.m. At the beginning of the meeting, we'll have a Public Hearing (re: the trailer park project) and then we'll go into our regular session.

11. **Non-Public Session: (Pursuant to RSA 91-A:3, II (a):**

    Motion to go into Non-Public Session by: A. Rossetto, 2nd by: J. Weagle, All in Favor 2-0
    Roll Call: J. Weagle – Yes; A. Rossetto - Yes

    Into Non-Public Session at 7:05 pm

    a. Resident Matter -

    b. Employee Matter – SEALED

    Motion to come out of Non-Public Session by: A. Rossetto
    2nd by: J. Weagle, All in Favor 2-0

    Out of Non-Public Session at 7:30 pm.

    Into Regular session at 7:30 pm.

    Motion to seal item b of the Non-Public session minutes by: A. Rossetto

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2nd by: J. Weagle, All in Favor 2-0

No further business was discussed.

12. Adjournment:

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:32 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca L. 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).