Town of
Northumberland
Office of Selectmen
19 Main St
Groveton NH 03582
Phone (603) 636-1450
Fax (603) 636-6098

www.northumberlandnh.gov

Town of Northumberland
Board of Selectmen – Minutes - Draft
Date: Monday, Sept.15,2025
Place: Town Meeting Room – 10 Station Square
Time: 6:00 P.M.

Board Members present: Jim Weagle, Al Rossetto
Others present: George Kenison, Pete Marshall, Norm Cotter, C. R. Wheeler, Dick Watson, Kevin McKinnon, Andrea Muller, Bob Roby, Deb Miles, Harriet Sanborn, Melissa Dano, Doug Dano, Jodi Paradis, Sam Oakes, Kim Bronson, Jim Tierney, Kathy Frechette, Sheila Smith, Debbie Montgomery, Wayne Montgomery, Britannia Jurentkuff, Anna Belanger, Ryan Shannon, Kerri Szymanowski, Jamie Normand, Dean Wiles, Reginald Charron, Judy Fox, Jon Woodworth, Matt Woodworth, Andre Brasseur, Terri Charron, Robin Irving, Jerry Monahan, Rebecca St. Cyr – Minute Taker

1. **Vice Chairman Opens Public Hearing** – J. Weagle opened the Public Hearing at 6:00 pm

   A. Brookview CDBG Update – Andrea Muller, Administrator for the CDBG Grant.

   Andrea was hired as the administrator to work with the Town on the Brookview CDBG grant. It is for $500,000 from Community Development Finance Authority for the Brookview Sewer/Water Improvements. They've also received money from DES for ARPA funding.

   The project started in January of 2025, they hired her to do the administration, because it's federal money there is a lot of tracking. Then hired the construction manager, CSA Environmental Consultants – Steve H. who is sort of technical boots on the ground for the project. The construction firm was hired in June – Elevated Excavation, Berlin, NH. They are doing the on-site construction work.

   Currently, there's a trench that's going down around, that's a loop project. There's a new waste pipe in there, there's pressure testing of that, and the Sunset Boulevard arm that runs up down. All units are being connected to the new system with some electrical. Then they're getting a new pump and there will be new resurfacing, that has not been done yet.

   In general, they are on schedule right now, there is one hiccup that could delay the project, so we're going to be asking for two extensions from the funders. The delay is for the fabrication and delivery of the pump, it's taking about 6 to 10 weeks. The pump is for the wastewater to pump it from Brookview, to where it will go in the town system. As a result, we're asking for an extension. It would have been done at the end of October, it's possibly going to be soon thereafter. Depending on the weather and when the pump actually arrives, they may have to have a winter shutdown and go into the spring. The pump extension does not change the finances of the project, what does change it is they have run into clay, which she understands needs to be replaced. The clay gets replaced with a more permeable material, and that will cost them a little bit more money.

   The Public Hearing is a requirement of federal funding so the community has an opportunity to enforce themselves.

   Questions from the public: There were no questions/comments or concerns

   The Community Development and Housing Plan needs to be re-authorized. It dovetails with the Towns Master Plan. It was drafted and signed in 2021, it talks about the Town having recreational and economic aspirations particularly to something like the Brookview project. We need to re-authorize it so that it's current within 3 years.

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Motion to have the Vice Chair sign the Housing and Community Development paperwork by: A. Rossetto, 2nd by: J. Weagle, All in Favor 2-0

The second request is to extend the deadline.

Motion to have the Vice Chair sign the CDBG – Northumberland - Brookview Coop MH Park W/S Project Extension by: A. Rossetto, 2nd by: J. Weagle, All in Favor 2-0

2. **Vice Chairman closes Public Hearing** – J. Weagle closed the Public Hearing at 6:08 pm.

3. **Vice Chairman Opens the Selectmens Meeting**: J. Weagle opened the Selectmens meeting at 6:08 pm.

4. **Pledge of Allegiance** - All

5. **Acceptance of the minutes for Sept. 2nd meeting** –
   Motion to Accept the September 2, 2025 minutes by: A. Rossetto, 2nd by: J. Weagle, All in Favor 2-0

6. **Court Order** - J. Weagle – The court has deemed that Robin Irving will be the new selectman; there is a 10 day stay before she can be sworn in.

7. **Department Head Business: Ambulance and Fire –**
   Ambulance – EMS Chiefs Report – J. Weagle read the report.

   1. 2025 as of this printing, we have had 313 calls for service to date.
   2. 2024 on this date we were at 376 calls for service.
   3. Comstar report as of 09/12/2025, net commitments as of July 31st.
   4. Both ambulances have passed inspection and have no problems noted.
   5. We are holding our own but still low on staffing, if anybody knows of anyone that would like to get into EMS and help out their community, send them our way.

   Fire Department – Andre Brasseur, Chief
   Since Aug 18 – 3 calls for service, 2 illegal burns and a MV crash.
   58 calls for service YTD. It's inspection month, might have to put some money into the trucks due to their age. He's not aware of any major issues at this time.

   The Homecoming parade was a success and got the State Police involved to assist with traffic control. We did have a bon-fire, we had 2 trucks there and 5 people there to watch over it.

8. **Requested Agenda Matters**:
   a. Ryan Shannon – requested permission for a fall event on November 2 at the small ballfield
      His liability insurance will cover the event.

      Motion to allow a Fall Event at the small ballfield w/R. Shannon's business providing the insurance coverage for the event by: A. Rossetto, 2nd by: J. Weagle, All in Favor 2-0

   b. Nicholas Marios – Weeks Medical Center Fire Line - Nick commented it's been noted that since 2006 we've been charged $750 to date, $525 previous to the increase for a fire line, a commercial fire line at our clinic, 47 Church St. We do not have a sprinkler system there. There's roughly about $21,200 (he believes) in payments that we've made for something that we don't have. We are not looking to cause any undue hardship, don't want money back, just part ways, as far as the billing invoices goes, if we can take it off the August 8th invoice, that would be great.

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Motion to take it off the property card and abate the amount on the latest W/S bill by: A. Rossetto
2nd by: J. Weagle

J. Tierney noted that it can be removed from the property card, to remove from the current bill it has to come back as an abatement.

All in Favor 2-0

9. Town Office Matters:
   a. State Police Coverage Agreement – J. Weagle – we have an agreement with the State Police for coverage from now – until we get adequate coverage or through 12/31/2026. A min of 4 hours and not to exceed 10 hours per week.

R. Shannon asked why are we paying since there is an RSA that covers populations under 3000; stating they are supposed to cover. J. Weagle said if you want specific coverage, it's a contract. We will have an officer here at specific times. C. Wheeler asked what the cost is. J. Weagle didn't have the numbers, but read a section in the contract regarding the billing. There wasn't a dollar # shown, Jim will get it for the next meeting. Discussion continued regarding the costs.

J. Woodworth noted that we will pay the detail rate for the trooper, which is time and half for a senior officer, roughly $100.00 / hour. We will pay for the cruiser, the trooper, the benefits, we will pay everything for that trooper, probably $100.00 or more. The Board and J. Woodworth continued with the discussion regarding cost. J. Weagle said it's for a minimum of 4 hours / max 10 / week at their digression.

S. Smith asked about the contract, it is until 12/31/2026? J. Weagle said yes or until the Town has our own coverage. R. Shannon commented the officers are already in Town a lot, he feels that until you get a dollar amount, you should table it.

The public and the Board continued with the discussion regarding approving the agreement.

S. Dupont asked if the troopers get sick and tired of us calling, can we take matters into our own hands? J. Weagle said no, that's not the way to go. This is only for dedicated coverage to the Town. They will continue to provide service in addition to.

S. Smith asked for further explanation of the hours. J. Weagle – a min of 4 hours – max of 10 hours, they will pick the dates that they will be here. T. Charron had Michelle on the phone if it's a low trooper – that makes $30.00/hour at time and half; if it's a lieutenant - $60.00/ hour at time and half. J. Weagle said between $100 - $200/hour dedicated to Groveton. Sheila asked if we know when they going to be in Town. J. Weagle further explained.

J. Woodworth explained. We are talking about a detail for law enforcement. The State Police put it out to bid, the troopers on their off time can bid on it. We don't know when that will be. Typically, they might work 6:00 am – 3:00 pm shift and then might work 3:00 pm – 7:00 pm on a detail. When they are here, they are dedicated to Groveton. It's not like when you call 911 you might have to wait 2 hrs. He feels it's a necessary evil for the time being.

J. Monahan asked if they are here patrolling and there is an incident in Stark is he going to go. Jonathan noted that the detail trooper probably wouldn't take the call, normally the on-duty patrol officer would go. If it's not life or death they probably wouldn't go.

Motion to sign the agreement for dedicated State Police coverage by: A. Rossetto
2nd by: J. Weagle, All in Favor 2-0

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b. Update on Hill Project -
K. McKinnon – we have new water mains in on Cumberland, Maple & High they have all been tested and disinfected, the bacteria tested clean. The water is all good to use. The hydrants are all turned on. We are looking into getting a 2nd crew to start connecting the water service to the houses. HE will know by the end of this week if it will be happening. Hopefully, it will be approved, so we don't get caught with cold weather. When that's done, the temp water service can be disconnected. Then we will grind the pavement and put eventually put a 2" base coat down. The latest that will happen is the first of November.

More work: We need to complete the water main on Maple St. If they get a 2nd crew we will keep working, if not then we will have to do the services. Depending on the weather, we may extend the work or shorten it. Reggie and his crew has helped a lot finding water shut-off's, etc. Thank you to the people that live on the hill for their patience – they appreciate it.

K. Frechette asked if they know when the temporary lines will be removed. Kevin said they will start next Week if we get the second crew. If not it could be the end of the month. Residents don't need to be home for the service line, but if they need to go in the basement, they would need to be.

C. Wheeler asked if the lawns that are dug up will it be put back? K. McKinnon said yes, it will be loamed and fixed.

J. Fox noted the water line in her basement has been moved as well.

R. Charron commented that we had a lot of leaks prior; currently we are down to 75,000 gallons per day. It is showing and showing great.

J. Weagle, we are going to try and fix the road at the Cumberland, Maple St. intersection.

A. Brasseur asked if with the lack of rain, do you feel the project is on track; Kevin said we've moved ahead without the rain. Reggie commented that we are way under the amount of ledge that we estimated. We haven't had to do any more blasting since Cumberland.

J. Monahan asked about the water usage and who is paying for it. Reggie explained we are saving it in the pumping every day and the treatment. Basically, there were leaks, we are going to pay for this over the next few years but it will be better for everyone. Reggie further discussed.

H. Sanborn – since the hill is nothing but ledge, they are doing a good job. Kevin – it's been a challenge but we are getting through it.

There will be a pump station on Cumberland St.

10. Applications/Permits and Warrants:

a. Zoning permit –

1. Map/Lot #222-011 - Ryan Shannon – roof mounted solar system with 21 panels.
   Motion to approve by: A. Rossetto, 2nd by: J. Weagle, All in Favor 2-0

2. Map/Lot # 240-015-00-00 - Robert Briere – expand an re-pave driveway; got a permit from the State as well
   Motion to approve by: A. Rossetto, 2nd by: J. Weagle, All in Favor 2-0

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b. Non-Resident Transfer Permit –
1. Map/Lot 236-005-MH-04 – 71 Dean Brook, Kylie Gilcris

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

11. **Public Comment:

- C. Wheeler asked what is the update on the Chief? J. Weagle said we may be able to give you an update at the next meeting. J. Weagle briefly discussed the negotiations. He's not local, he will be a hands on Chief. Wheeler asked about the $42,000 that was a line item on the budget, how much was used? J. Weagle didn't have that information. We have everything that was bought, it has all been accounted for. How much did they buy? And what's left. J. Weagle will report this at the next meeting.

- S. Smith – when we get a Chief then we can hire some officers. How soon will that happen? J. Weagle said the Chief will initiate that.

- D. Montgomery asked what is the status on the Town Administrator? J. Weagle advised that we interviewed a couple more candidates and will be discussing further during the Non-Public session.

- K. Wiles said there was a crew (Deb Montgomerty, Elaine, Wayne, Sheila, Larry, and Dean), worked on cleaning up the gazebo, it's been pressure washed and looks pretty good. Al said he discussed security for the area with Lufkin. He is going to look into it and get back to Al. He did say the distance from the Town Office to the gazebo is too far.

- K. Frechette asked if the railroad knows that the sign has been knocked down near the corner of Melcher and Cumberland St. J. Weagle said they have been notified. She also noted there are some children in town that are running lawn mowers and 4x4's around Town on the sidewalks and in the streets.

- W. Montgomery noted that Samantha Young stopped by when we were cleaning the gazebo and might consider adding security on her building.

- C. Wheeler asked about the bid for repairs on the train. J. Weagle said it was the Beautification Comm that posted the bid, but we haven't heard anything yet. The bid had to be put in the paper. Al noted that we have no control over it because it's with the Beautification Comm; the Town authorized $5,000 to go to the committee. They need our permission to do anything on Town property, Al has not heard from Ryan Perkins on this yet.

- Deb M – did you (J. Weagle) say at the last meeting that the Beautification Comm is Non-Profit? J. Weagle said it's non-profit, anyone can be non-profit but to be recognized as a complete non-profit there is paperwork that needs to be filed. Al said that brings up another issue when we let non-profits use the small ballfield and be covered under the Town insurance. Jim said not all the organizations that we allow to use the field are 501c.

  D. Montgomery said you are either non-profit or not. J. Weagle further discussed, as long as you are not making a profit you don't have to be a 501C. When we had the PTO, we had to go on our own, he got an employee ID #, but because we didn't go over a certain threshold, we didn't need all the other info associated with it. Deb was involved with a Non-Profit organization for years and still is. We had to provide paperwork yearly to the NH Charitable Trust. Discussion ensued regarding donations. J. Woodworth - 501C's if you make a donation to them, it's tax deductible, they can give you a letter and you can claim on your taxes. If I give them $100 to the Beautification Comm. and they buy beer; there is nothing stopping them from doing that and there is no recourse I have to stop them from doing that.

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- S. Smith requested the Board to get someone to weed and clean out Chapman Park garden, it's a mess. She's not sure who is charge of the Beautification money, doesn't know where it goes or if you can pay someone in cash. If you or someone can hire people to clean it up, it would be an asset and beautification to our Town.

- D. Miles asked who gets to use the small ballfield. J. Weagle said anyone can use it, normally if it's a non-profit that's using it, the Town will sponsor for the insurance. If it's a business, they have to provide the insurance. He discussed the Griffin Memorial Fund. Primex said if it's Town sponsored the Town insurance would cover. W. Montgomery asked what the liability coverage is? Weagle said $2,000,000.

- R. Shannon asked when the next School Board meeting is? J. Weagle - next month, the 2nd Tuesday.

- J. Woodworth hears a lot of rumors and understands the new Chief is going to get a healthy pay. Is it the Boards intent to wait until Robin is sworn in or do this without a third person. If the rumors are true he will be the highest paid Chief in Coos County. I know we need a PD but at what cost? If what he's hearing is true, he feels it's excessive. He thinks Jim and Al should wait for Robin. J. Weagle said we have already made the decision because we had to. The salary isn't public until the contract is signed. Jonathan has been in law enforcement for almost 2 decades and started in Groveton. If what he's hearing is true, you are setting a very ugly precedent for every Chief in this county. Maybe it was out of desperation? J. Weagle commented it wasn't out of desperation. R. Shannon commented that we have to think about hiring other officers as well. Jonathan and the Board continued discussing; the rumor is that he will make $125,000 plus benefits. He's knows the candidate, he's a retired chief.

  J. Monahan asked if there is a time frame for where he needs to live in this area. J. Weagle said it was taken out. R. Shannon asked what is the time limit for them to get here in case of an emergency. J. Weagle said the farthest would be Berlin. There isn't anything in writing. D. Montgomery asked if that can be made part of the contract. J. Weagle said he's planning to relocate to this area.

  J. Tierney asked about the contract, how long, etc. J. Weagle said it will be yearly, so that we are not binding other boards.

12. **Announcements** – Town and Catholic Cemetery's – the water has been shut off for the season as of today. K. Wiles noted that last week we had a DMV audit – there were no findings, she got an A+.

13. **Next Board Meeting Date**: Monday, Oct. 6 at 6:00 p.m.

14. **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: A. Rossetto – Yes, J. Weagle - Yes

Into Non-Public session at 7:12 pm

a. Resident Matter
b. Resident Matter
c. Employee Matter

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 8:00 pm

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Into Regular Session at 8:00 pm

Motion to approve the employment contract for the new chief of police by: A. Rossetto
2nd by: J. Weagle, All in Favor 2-0

Motion to sign the abatement in the amount of $66.96 for Randy & Carolyn Blodgett by: J. Weagle
2nd by: A. Rossetto, All in Favor 2-0

15. Adjournment:

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:02 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).