Town of
Northumberland
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Town of Northumberland
Board of Selectmen – Minutes - Draft
Date: Monday, Oct. 20, 2025
Place: Town Meeting Room — 10 Station Square
Time: 6:00 P.M.

Board Members present: Robin Irving, Alan Rossetto, Jim Weagle
Others present: Pete Marshall, Norm Cotter, Elaine Gray, Kathy Wiles, Sheila Smith, Deb Miles, Nancy Merrow, Bill Baxley, Debbie Montgomery, Wayne Montgomery, C. R. Wheeler, Melissa Dano, Same Oakes, Ed Robinson, Kathy Frechette, Bart & Niki Merriam, Harriet Sanborn, Joanne Paradis, Andre Brasseur, Reggie Charron, Terri Charron, Bonnie & Dave Auger, Susan Marineau, Megan Adjutant & Kyra, Ryan Perkins, Jack Bernard, Ryan Shannon, Starlyn Dupont, Rebecca St Cyr – Minute Taker

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

2. **Pledge of Allegiance** – All

3. **Acceptance of the minutes for Oct. 6th meeting:**
   Motion to approve the Oct 6, 2025 minutes by: A. Rossetto, 2nd by: R. Irving, All in Favor 3-0

4. **Re-Organization of the Select Board:**
   Motion to appoint J. Weagle as Chairman of the Select Board
   and R. Irving as Vice Chair by: A. Rossetto, 2nd by: R. Irving, All in Favor 3-0

5. **Department Head Business: AMB / FD:**
   FD – Andre Brasseur, Chief
   Since the last meeting on September 15, we had 5 calls for service - 62 YTD, last year at this time we were at 70 calls. It's been a little quieter this year.

   The 5 calls included: a shed fire, a motor vehicle crash, an illegal burn, an order of investigation, and one call to assist Stark.

   All of the trucks have been inspected and are in working order and passed State of NH standards.

   October 31st, we'll be at the fire station handing out candy for trick treaters
   The hayride will be on Saturday, December 13th.

   AMB – EMS Chief's Report - J. Weagle read the report.

   1. 2025 as of this printing at noon today, we have had 356 calls for service to date.
   2. 2024 on this date we were at 427 calls for service.
   3. Comstar report as of 10/10/2025, $193,801.47. This does not include payments made directly to the office or 2025 contract fees.
   4. Both Ambulances are at par with no issues to report.
   5. We are still 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 or is a licensed EMS provider, send them our way.

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Meeting House -
J. Weagle read the 2025 Season Report from Paul Raffenello re: the Meeting House. A copy is at the end of the minutes and it will be posted on the website as well. The outhouse will be picked up soon (mid-November). R. Irving asked - when Rob Roby was working alone, he was working on an inventory of everything in the meeting house for insurance purposes, did he ever finish that and turn it into the town? J. Weagle didn't know and will ask Rob when he sees him.

6. Requested Agenda Matters:
   A. Beautification Committee – see letter below, read by Debbie Montgomery

Groveton Beautification Committee
My name is Debbie Montgomery and I am speaking for a small group of volunteers in town, Elaine Gray, Sheila Smith, Bonnie Auger, and myself. We have been planting and taking care of the flowers in town for the past several years.

The original intent of this committee was to beautify Groveton by planting and maintaining flowers. For several years, that was the mission of this committee. From 2022-2025 The Groveton Beautification Committee submitted warrant articles that were voted on and approved by the town totaling $17,208. Presently, there has been no accountability of how these funds have been spent. Requests for this have been ignored.

We need and want accountability for how these funds have been spent before we organize a new beautification committee with new goals. Presently we are at a standstill and need to make a plan going forward.

We understand that Courtney McLain and Jim Weagle are on the Beautification committee. In June, Elaine Gray submitted an invoice for $431.00 for flowers and soil and was reimbursed in July. We're waiting on reimbursement of $75.00 for mums and pumpkins. Courtney purchased mums for $110.00 which she delivered to Elaine. The pumpkins and mums are at different containers in town.

I've tried on 3 different occasions since 9/23/2025 to contact Courtney but have not had any response. I had hoped, since she is on the committee, she would share and shed light on these concerns so we could move forward more easily.

Our goals are to establish guidelines and future goals for the Groveton Beautification Committee with the town administration as well as:

Maintain the original name, Groveton Beautification Committee, to continue with the original intent of beautifying our town

Have an account under the town's identification number and provide annual accountability for the Town Report

Purchase flowers, soil, fertilizer, mulch, tools & other miscellaneous needs

Maintain gardens in town, Chapman Park and Melcher Court

We need the Selectmen's help in resolving this issue as soon as possible by sharing the 2022-2025 expenses and account balances at the next Selectmen's meeting on Nov. 3, 2025.

Thank you.

A lengthy discussion ensued with questions and/or comments . . . . . .

K. Frechette asked if the Beautification Comm takes care of putting up winter decorations on the Fire Station and the Christmas flags. J. Weagle said the Fire Department does is now. J. Paradis said after the fire she rewired the snowmen, the Christmas Comm does the flags around Town. B. Auger noted that a lot of the decorations were stored in the old garage and were lost in a fire.

S. Smith–our goal is to establish what the Beautification Comm. is all about. We were hoping to meet with Courtney and Jim to fill us in on what she thinks it is. We don't want to eliminate anything we just need guidelines and want to know exactly what we are going to do..

C. Wheeler asked who has the checkbook and how much is in it. Debbie said we have no idea what's in it or what has been spent. The Town has contributed $17,208 from 2022 – 2025. We can't get answers, as a taxpayer she would like to see where the money is going. She has been working on the flowers for several years and never gave it a lot of thought until this year. What's the definition of Beautification? Beautification is to make a place look better. We have to determine what beautification is in Groveton and what committees work on it. We need answers and we haven't got any.

C. Wheeler asked how many signatures are required. J. Weagle said there is no checkbook, when a bill is submitted, Courtney goes to the bank and distributes. He is on the committee basically to help. He helps with the dog stations. R. Irving said she worked for the town a few years ago. At that time Julie Boissellee was dealing with the Beautification Comm. At that time, the Town was clear that they were relinquishing control of the Beautification Comm. Julie was in the process of making it a non-profit, under a non-profit there are supposed to be by-laws that would provide the guidelines. Robin doesn't know where that went, J. Weagle is under the impression that it made it through the process to become an NPO.

The Town asks for an accounting from anyone that gets money from the town through a warrant article one time per year. We haven't asked any of them for an accounting except Senior Meals. Robin noted that Courtney is pretty sharp and is capable of doing an accounting. Robin wouldn't want to select the Beautification Comm to come up with an accounting, in March they will be asked for an accounting and it will in the Town Report. It's on the Town for not enforcing an accounting. The other charitable's don't do a line item budgets, they give statistics. It's not a Town organization.

R. Perkins asked R. Irving to explain relinquished? Robin said the Town had said it won't be a Town organization. It was a while ago, M. Phillips, J. Weagle and maybe J. Tierney on the Board. R. Perkins further discussed, J. Weagle said since it was no longer a Town committee, the records were not kept in the Town office. J. Paradis commented that she and Julie started the Groveton Beautification – she was the President/Treasurer. She did the buckets for years and couldn't physically do it anymore. She went into the Town office and the buckets were all moved, Courtney had moved them without communicating with Jodi. Jodi said she walked away from it at that time.

S. Smith – expressed concern about other committee's that have not supplied accountability. But anyone that has a problem with a group can come here and confront the Town about it. We are talking about the Beautification Comm., we are not picking on anybody but just requesting the information that we deserve to get. R. Irving said we don't have the teeth to enforce an accounting right now. When Town Meeting comes, they are a charitable organization and they are supposed to submit a report. The remedy for that is you vote down the money. J. Weagle commented that you can't single out one charitable organization; they all need to be treated the same. Sheila asked if she can talk with us about the money, what its for, where it goes. Jim stated as a Board we can't enforce it as a Board.

B. Baxley asked about the Beautification Comm and not being approved as a non-profit. R. Irving and J. Weagle don't think they made it through the process. Bill commented isn't there a law about non-profit and collecting money under that status, isn't it against the law. Robin is not sure what the RSA's are about that and would need to look it up and get back on that.

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B. Auger commented that we were under the Town's ID and had an account at the Northway Bank. She would submit her expenditures and get her money back. The person at the Library did the financial and a summary of what we did. It was a lot for the committee to take on. Originally it was the Town's ID, and there someone that did the auditing. Nothing was ever mentioned about a 501.

D. Montgomery wanted to know why it was not allowed to stay under the Town's accounting. J. Weagle said that most accountants don't want it that way, they want the organizations to have their own Tax ID's. You can still raise money and receive donated money but must state that you're are not a 501C. Debbie, if she understands Jodi & Julie correctly, noted that when the account was closed at Passumpsic Bank, she would assume that the ID # was cancelled. She is curious what the new account was opened under. They just want answers.

R. Perkins is not an official member of the committee, but the mail goes to his house from the bank in the name of the Beautification Committee. Debbie wished that Courtney had come to the meeting tonight so we wouldn't be asking all these questions. Perkins said no one cared when she was looking for help. Debbie is interested in the flowers, maintaining them, picking up, etc. As a small group we just need some answers. We don't know what the account at Passumpsic is covering. Elaine is waiting on reimbursement since 10/08. J. Weagle suggested she contact him, when he knows there's a problem he tries to take care of it.

Nancy Merrow said she started requesting this at budget meetings and town meetings for a report. It's been over 5 years since this has been asked. K. Wiles noted that it's in the Town Meeting minutes. R. Irving commented that we are not enforcing the accounting since it has been asked for.

A resident commented that $15,000 was approved by the Conservation Committee for the train. Plus, the budget was $2,200. J. Weagle said that money is just for the train, it's being held until it can be repaired. It doesn't go to the Beautification Comm until the train is started. The other money was approved by a warrant article. K. Wiles said we had a question come in about the bid on the train, but no bids were received for the train repairs.

W. Montgomery assumes that part of the process when the Town gives funds to a group is that they have to be a registered charitable organization. J. Weagle said no, anybody can make a request for money from the Town. Wayne asked if the other organizations are non-profit? We have one that isn't and several that are. R. Irving added it appears that way because we don't know what the status is of the Beautification Comm.

E. Gray said the Community Christmas organization is already in the budget. The Town owns the barrels, why can't the flowers be put into the budget. J. Weagle when we put in the Babe Ruth and the Christmas Comm the Beautification was voted to be left out.

R. Perkins advised the Groveton Beautification Committee will no longer be asking for money at Town Meeting. They are not required to and the name Groveton Beautification will stay with Courtney because the money has not been exhausted. Debbie asked him what will the money be used for? R. Perkins said it will be used for what it's asked to be used for.

B. Baxley noted that R. Perkins is not on the committee, so how can he answer questions? J. Weagle said he if wants to answer questions, he can.

W. Montgomery said that Robin commented the Town will be requesting a report from organizations that received money from the Town. So, they will still need to report to the Town at year end. J. Weagle said no, we can't make them submit a report. R. Irving added that we ask for a report and their physical presence at Town Meeting. If they are not going to request money there won't be a need for either. Wayne said you should not have allowed it. J. Weagle commented if the voters approve it there is nothing the Board can do, he further explained the process.

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M. Adjutant asked if someone requests money, they're not required to report back on where it's spent. Is there something that can be put in to say they have to report back. J. Weagle said no, if they make a request, we put it to Town Meeting, if it's approved and put in another request to receive the funds, we have to give them the money. The only chance to vote it down is at Town Meeting. Is there a reason why the Beautification Comm doesn't want to answer where the money went. J. Weagle said we are trying to get the information, he's on the committee to help. He doesn't deal with the accounting, and doesn't mind helping with the dog stations but he doesn't plant flowers. Debbie asked Weagle (as a comm. member) can we meet with him and Courtney to further discuss. Jim will ask but can't guarantee it.

K. Wiles commented in listening to everyone's discussion, she is coming up with, we don't need line items, we want year end balances. If you don't get the year end balances and they are not doing another request, what happens to the last year-end balance? Weagle said once the money goes to the organization, if they fold – we are out that money. Jim reviewed the process, when the Towns people vote and approve, the Board has to disperse accordingly.

B. Baxley – When this was started, you thought it was a non-profit, but it's not; there is legal and non-legal. They are not legal, they didn't go non-profit. J. Weagle said any organization can raise money as a non-profit and not be a 501C. Discussion continued regarding non-profit.

Weagle shut the discussion off because it's going nowhere. D. Montgomery asked where do we go? ? J. Weagle said there is nothing more that the Board can do, we've provided you with the information that we can as a Board. D. Montgomery asked if we as a group need to contact legal aid? She expected more from the Selectmen tonight. J. Weagle said there is nothing more the Board can do.

A. Rossetto commented the Town Meeting is the legislative body of our Town government, it controls the finances on how much taxes are raised an how the money is distributed.. If a petitioned warrant article comes in, and it's voted on by the taxpayers and approved, then the citizens of the Town have agreed to give the group the money, with no strings attached. Jim is correct, Al further discussed the issue and how the warrant articles work. The error is that we didn't ask enough questions when the money was approved. The $5,000 approved at the last meeting is gone. D. Montgomery noted that you've made it clear that we won't find out what happened to the money other than what was submitted for reimbursement Going forward, she isn't sure they want to continue under the Beautification Comm that is established right now. We need to figure out how we go forward as a very small group. Al recommended bringing in a detailed petition for Town Meeting. We need to learn from our mistakes.

7. Town Office Matters:

8. Applications/Permits and Warrants:

A. Zoning permits — Map Lot 236-034 – Gabrielle Dupuis, 125 Old Village Rd., renovating second floor, sheetrock, insulation, walls, cabinets, bathroom, removing stairwell, remove or replace and close entry, fixed spot on foundation.
Motion to approve by: A. Rossetto, 2nd by: R. Irving, All in Favor 3-0

B. Intent to cut — Map-Lot 247-007 – Cape Horn State Forest – 38 MBD J. Weagle reviewed the cut. W. Montgomery noted the stumpage is different for Spruce & Fir. The State Forester has approved, the State owns the lot. J. Bernard asked if, can't you contact the State for clarification?
Motion to approve contingent on contacting the State for clarification by: A. Rossetto
2nd by: R. Irving, All in Favor 3-0

C. Hall Rental for Veterans Day Program – Groveton Elementary School, requesting use of the meeting for the Veterans day program. Further discussed the capacity of the room – by code 57 is the occupancy limit. Reviewed other locations in Town.

Motion to approve and waive the fee by: R. Irving - Robin withdrew this motion

Motion to deny due to room capacity limits for Fire Code and Safety by: R. Irving
2nd by: A. Rossetto, Denied 3-0

J. Weagle will contact Wanda.

9. **Public Comment:

S. Dupont – is sponsoring a fall festival, she asked the Fire Chief, A. Brasseur if they would be available to have a bon-fire. Andre – there is paperwork that we can submit for approval – please reach out to him.

S. Smith commented on the Beautification Committee, she feels we're educating this group as to what's going on, and we have legitimate concerns about the committee. We need to narrow it down to what the money requested would go for. Clearly explain, that's our goal. We are not trying to have problem with anybody. but it's a lot of money and we're not going down that road now. Sheila feels we're at least attempting to educate the Town and the public.

K. Frechette – Trunk or Treat was discussed at a previous meeting for the Saturday before Halloween and it's been re-scheduled for Oct 31st at 3:30 pm. People will be giving out candy at their expense. It will be held at the Chapman parking lot.

Pete Marshall asked for an update at the old diner in Northumberland, the sign says opening soon. J. Weagle doesn't know all the details. the Robin said he gave a presentation to the Rotary, who provided them some money. She will see about getting the presentation.

Ryan Perkins asked when someone submits a complaint to the Town how long does the Board have to respond. J. Weagle said it will be discussed during Non-Public tonight.

D. Montgomery asked when Nancy said she requested how the money was spent by the Beautification Comm; if you knew then that the Town didn't need an explanation, why wasn't Nancy told that so we wouldn't be asking questions. R. Irving there is an assumption that they will come back to Town Meeting, but they are not next spring, then it becomes a moot request. J. Weagle said we reached out and asked them to submit a report. N. Merrow noted the response was that we would get that done.

R. Shannon – This is why it's important at Town meeting to pick and choose to vote correctly and not just pass it through. Now we are in the situation that people want to know where the money is. The Granite Guild received money and we haven't seen anything on them yet. A. Rossetto said Rick Archer came in and gave us a detailed report for what they bought with the $5,000, the numbers were in excess of the $5,000. As a Board, we need to scrutinize warrant articles, so we don't end in this situation again. R. Irving commented in different towns they are starting to scrutinize the charitable's. Most jurisdictions are starting to not lump them together but putting them as separate warrant articles specifically for that purpose. K. Wiles noted that it used to be that way, but wanted to make it quicker. Not every charitable organization has the same issue with transparency to the public.

M. Adjutant asked who puts the minutes on the web-site? J. Weagle said we're working on that. We're going to get that a lot better as we go forward, but we're still trying to get back to full staff. We don't have anyone in the position yet. C. Wheeler said it's time to update the Board members names on the website.

K. Frechette – where are we with the PD? J. Weagle said we are holding on it at this time. The Town Administrator? J. Weagle - we are working on it, when the contract is ready then we will make an

announcement. Will an assistant be hired as well? We are working on it. R. Irving – we were focusing on peoples different skill sets. You will see the Executive Admin, Finance would be separate and then we will have the Administrator. J. Weagle commented there will be more job postings coming.

N. Merrow asked if we are still using Tammy in the office. J. Weagle said yes at a minimum for now. Nancy questioned a full day? She hopes that when looking at participants applying that they are qualified. J. Weagle said we are looking at our options to have everything covered.

K. Frechette comes to most of the meetings and hears that we don't do anything for the kids. We do a lot for the kids and most is done with volunteers. We had the Easter Egg Hunt - Kelli Jo, Mingle Jingle (Kelli-Jo), Santa w/Hayride, a present and food, Trick or Treat and Trunk a Treat, a costume contest and costume parade at the school, a Halloween dance at the school, the Rec Center does pool parties, trips, fireworks, summer Olympics, pumpkin carving, a summer reading program, Magic Fred, Homecoming Parade, a nice Glow Party, plus babe ruth and t-ball. We do a lot for the kids. There will be haunted house this year as well. Discussion continued regarding the organizers/sponsors of the activities.

R. Perkins added the Beautification Comm. has hosted Trunk or Treat and pumpkin carving. Beautification withdrew because of the uproar at a past meeting. R. Shannon commented that if we do all these things, why doesn't the Town up their insurance. J. Weagle commented that we have, but not for businesses.

C. Wheeler asked who sponsors the flag on the bridge. It blew up onto the side and needs to be fixed. R. Perkins said he stopped dealing with the flag because someone is messing with it. Someone is folding the flag up at night because there are no lights. N. Merrow asked if any thought has been given to putting the flag on a flagpole? R. Perkins further discussed, we are working on it.

D. Montgomery asked if there is a Patriotic Committee or fund? J. Weagle said there is, it's only used for the monuments and cemeteries. Terri said the 2 flags at the cemeteries, (1 the VFW pays for) at the monuments, and when the Meeting House needs a flag, they come to her for one. K. Frechette mentioned the Women's Auxiliary pays for the flag at the Library.

R. Perkins congratulated Robin Irving on her position on the Select Board.

D. Miles reviewed the flags at the covered bridge, there were 3 flags total. One was donated.

S. Smith said it's time that all Town committees sit down and do an overhaul. (Make some decisions on who and what ones we keep, which ones are overlapping, who's claiming something and not doing it). R. Irving suggested doing workshops, which we do for the budget. The public doesn't participate in the workshops; the Public Hearing is when the public can contribute.

S. Dupont asked if the Beautification Comm. has insurance? They are non-profit would they be able to cover events in the future? J. Weagle said she is a business, that's why she needs to have her own insurance.

10. Announcements:

11. Next Board Meeting Date: Monday, Nov 3rd at 6:00 p.m.

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

Motion to go into Non-Public session by: A. Rossetto
2nd by: R. Irving, All in Favor 3-0
Roll Call – A. Rossetto – Yes, R. Irving – Yes, J. Weagle – Yes

Into Non-Public session at 7:30 pm

A. Employee Matters (8)

Motion to adjourn the Non-Public session by: A. Rossetto, 2nd by: R. Irving, All in Favor 3-0

Out of Non-Public session at 8:39 pm

Into Regular session 8:39 pm

No further business was discussed.

12. Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn by: A. Rossetto, 2nd by: R. Irving, All in Favor 3-0

Respectfully submitted,
Rebecca St Cyr
Select Board, 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).

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1799 MEETING HOUSE MUSEUM NORTHUMBERLAND/GROVETON

2025 Season Report

I would like to thank both the Board of Selectmen and the people of Northumberland for their support this past season. We saw 200+ visitors this summer, some as far away as Virginia! Having the Museum open four days a week made it very accessible to people from the town and the North Country. The collection is truly a snapshot of the history of the town from 1753 to present day. Rob Roby and I hope to be invited back next season as we have begun plans for 2026, our U.S. Centennial Celebration. We would like to display a quilt made by townspeople back in 1976, and other Bi-centennial items from our history. Please visit our "1799 Meeting House Museum" Facebook page.

Your most humble & obedient servant,

Paul Raffenello

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