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Town of Northumberland
Board of Selectmen
Meeting Minutes - DRAFT
Date: Monday, May 4, 2026
Place: Town Meeting Room – 10 Station Square
Time: 6:00 P.M.

Board members present: Jim Tierney, Al Rossetto, Wayne Montgomery
Others present: Pete Marshall, Norman Cotter, Deb Miles, Chris Wheeler, James Gibson, Kathy Frechette, Melissa Dano, Doug Dano, Glenn Cassady, Bart & Nicole Merriam, Tracey Morrill, Judy Fox, Eric Brown, Debbie Montgomery, David & Jennifer Lyon, Bill Baxley, Nancy Merrow, Michelle Randall, Lupine McDonough, Reggie & Terri Charron, Andre Brasseur, Jerry Monahan, Rebecca St Cyr - Minute Taker/Transcriber

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

2. **Pledge of Allegiance -** All

3. **Acceptance of Minutes: April 20, 2026 and April 27, 2026**

   Motion to accept the April 20, 2026 & April 27, 2026 minutes by: W. Montgomery
   2nd by: A. Rossetto, All in Favor 3-0

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

   Highway - Glenn Cassady, Road Agent

   - Doing spring cleanup, 90% was done last week during school vacation. There are a couple few parking lots to do. Not doing any major cleaning on the hill with the project going on. They are bucketing material and are losing material when going over the tracks.
   - Glenns truck has been stripped down, Randy is taking the plows off.
   - Reid came back to work last week with a weight restriction, discussed what he will be doing.
   - The crew will be striping the crosswalks when we get nicer weather
   - The grader came last Monday. He may come back for a section on Page Hill due to the rain. Haven't put chloride out yet. All the dirt roads are done.
   - Need to get the Veterans banners up.
   - We have more cold patch coming, we've used 2 tons but there are more holes to fix.
   - Need to choose some sidewalks to get done this summer.
   - The Herman Savage Rd. Project, the Board will be voting on to go to the next stage with FEMA.
   - Paving - Glenn saved money from last year and this year to get the paving on the hill done.
   - Pool - There could be issues when we open it up. We know in the future, some major reconstruction will be needed. We fix the leaks when they're found, but there are more. When we get it up an running will be able to tell how much water we are using.

   Al and Glenn discussed employee that will be coming back from surgery.

   - Brook Road - the gentlemen there pulled the beaver dam out. He's now complaining about the sediment, the lower one needs to be taken out and maybe it will clear itself.

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Water/Sewer - Reggie Charron, Supervisor

- Follow-up on the pool, they wanted a motor ordered for one of the pumps. It was ordered last Friday. Ron had done a lot of work on it, but there's no more working on it. They need to start budgeting and preparing for the future.
- Reggie thanked Keith and Bart for helping out the crew with clean up.
- Water bills went out last Thursday, payments are starting to come in.
- Hill Project - All temporary water is in, all installed on Fisk & Pike, Crow Hill, Grand View, and most of First St. Reggie further discussed what was done, it saved money for the project. They started digging and running pipe, today they laid a fair amount of sewer pipe on Crow Hill from Maple St. today, There were some big nuggets pulled out, some of it was ledge. The operator and machine was breaking it apart, which will save on blasting. They will start drilling to look at what we might encounter.
- Upcoming projects - Mowing will start right away, Bart has been cleaning up gravel. We have one hydrant that we need to get in, it will require traffic control it's on Route 3 in a bad spot.
- Reggie is working on some side projects that are taking priority right now.

K. Frechette - Thank you to Reggie, the grate was replaced the next day. Kudo's

5. Requested Agenda Matters:

a. Herman Savage Rd Project**-** M. Randall - we put out an RFQ to firms for the engineering study. The only 2 that responded were HBE and Weston & Sampson. We have filed an extension and have a fairly tight timeline with FEMA. Glenn discussed - the alignment of the brook needs to be changed. It's a complete engineering study and they will do a cost analysis re: what we had (wing walls), or the open box concept, or to make a small bridge over it and leave the brook line where it is. The engineers need to figure out what is best. It's a 6' diameter culvert, which didn't move, the flow came up over the top.

Al asked Glenn if he has any experience with either of these firms - Glenn said the Town has employed both firms. FEMA has said they will cover the study, we haven't gotten any cost analysis for the study. M. Randall said the RFQ is the first step, the next step is to pick one. Wayne commented that it's whoever you have the most confidence with. Reggie - Jim McMahon, is with Weston & Sampson, he is very knowledgeable. Reggie doesn't know about HBE. Wayne noted they need to have that kind of experience

Motion to move forward with Weston & Sampson for the culvert design work on the Herman Savage Rd. project - by: A. Rossetto, 2nd by: W. Montgomery, All in Favor 3-0

b. Cell tower - J. Tierney - Tracey had questions at the last meeting. 1) Does the Town have the ability to ask for funding. In talking with the NHMA lawyer - RSA 676 answers the question. There is no $ amount in the RSA it reads: shall require detailed invoices with reasonable task descriptions for services rendered. The Planning Board shall properly provide a reasonably detailed accounting of expenses or corresponding escrow deduction. The Planning Board can ask if they fail to supply the information to the Planning Board, they are denied - RSA 676:4-B.

2) Abutters not being notified - J. Tierney talked with the NHMA Atty - RSA 676: section 1, subsection C1& D1. Basically, it says the Board shall notify everyone. The problem - no place in the RSA does it say anything about if they don't. There is no penalty listed in it of any kind. The Atty said the Planning Board needs to talk to their Attorney. W. Montgomery said there are documents that have been sent to the Town Atty and they have requested recordings and minutes for the March 4th meeting and the others. Wayne is going to Concord tomorrow, if he can expedite it.

J. Tierney asked the Atty about the shot clock, the Atty said the problem is whether it should have started or not. The lawyers will have to argue that out. NHMA doesn't give any official rulings. Wayne said the Town Atty said when he gets a copy of it, he will review and give us feedback on what we can do. We'll expedite it as quickly as we can. J. Tierney recommended the Planning Board doesn't use the word "Complete" in any motions. Once they say it's "complete" that starts the clock.

W. Montgomery - when the Town Atty talked to Atty Dodge about resetting everything, he specifically asked Atty Dodge if that started the Federal clock, he replied it started it until May 13th. So, we only have a few days extension, that's the reason we are getting all the information down to the Town Atty asap for his feedback.

E. Brown asked J. Tierney as a State Rep about putting in something to fix the loopholes. J. Tierney said he can but not this year and discussed the timeline. The problem going on is the House put in 1,400 bills and the Senate entered between 400 - 500. We went small for the current session. It's way too many and a lot of them are absolute utter stupidity. There could be 6-8 for the same thing but with minor word differences. They need to start thinking a little clearer and use more common sense. Jim said he won't be there next year, and he won't be on this Board again.

A. Rossetto requested the Board remove him as the ex officio on the Planning Board.

Motion to replace Al Rossetto with Wayne Montgomery as the ex officio Select Board rep. to the Planning Board by: J. Tierney, 2nd by: A. Rossetto, All in Favor - 3-0

Motion to take W. Montgomery off the Conservation Commission and put A. Rossetto on as his replacement by: J. Tierney, 2nd by: W. Montgomery, All in Favor 3-0

This a permanent move.

T. Morrill - At a previous meeting there was conversation that Vertical Bridge might have feedback by 5/4. Al said they told us that they were supposed to get something after the 4th. Al discussed the cell tower on his property in CT. He worked diligently to make the install for the infrastructure to be cheaper and he got the tower in CT. If it's possible, we can go to Vertical Bridge with a location that meets their coverage details, but is cheaper to install, that would be the best thing we can hope for. M. Randall said Romy received the last update from them March 19. J. Tierney read some notes re: site plan revised, dated 3/19. How could that not of changed the clock from when it was voted on March 4th.

M. Randall understands that after the March 4th meeting, they were told they had to make some changes or that there wasn't enough information. J. Tierney noted there was a lot of information missing, the update on the 19th was a reflection of them being told they needed more to go further.

L. McDonough asked if the Planning Board members have been briefed on the correct rules about what is and isn't illegal, a constituted reason to say yes or no. At two public meetings, the members of the Board were saying they had to say yes. She understands the law is different than that and there are reasons they can say no. And will they know that before the 13th. J. Tierney - they should know if there a few parts missing, they can say it's complete subject to getting them. For ex: DES - Wetlands Permit, Driveway permit, etc. He understands there were 2-3 items in section 1; a couple in section 2, section 5 and 7-8 items missing completely. He's not sure how that could be "substantially complete." Bring in the rest of the stuff in, then we will make a decision that will start a clock. He couldn't find in any of the RSA's where you have to make a choice when it's first presented. It's no different than someone building a house and you don't have the sewer plan, etc. From what he read in the emails that tells him it was not substantially complete.

Lupine to clarify - have the Planning Board members been briefed on their legal right to reject or accept the application. Wayne said that's part of what we are doing right now is an attempt to try and verify all of that. That's why we are getting the information to the Town Atty. It should be before the 13th.

The Chairman, Nicole has been on the Board 5 years, Sean Durkin - a few years. The longest serving member was Jim Weagle who left in March. Al said he has been on the Board for a decade or so. There needs to be more training, we are dealing with volunteers. Wayne commented that we've shared info with Mike, we need to get the recording of the minutes to him. Wayne had a short conversation with

him today, unless there is something different in the recorded minutes, nobody intended this to be the beginning of a full blown operation. The process isn't complete yet but will be soon.

Lupine - when you say that we will all sit down together, are you speaking about the folks supporting the Planning Board or . . . . .Wayne when we know where we are we will share with you. We need to work together, we all have the same common purpose, which is to benefit the community.

6. Town Business:

a. Police CRF Transfer - M. Randall - the cost of the cruiser was $55,000, he was looking at options for the upfit. Al said Gail spoke with him on Saturday, he thinks they will have it together for Thursday for the Chevy Tahoe and the fixtures that are attached to the cruiser. The computer is separate. N. Merrow - as one of the Trustee's they have a meeting scheduled, J. Tierney said we get the numbers from Kyler for approval, then it goes to the Trustee's. Michelle said the upfit includes the cage, gun rack, mount for the laptop, the lights, and sirens. Not sure about the back seat. E. Brown commented the seat in the last cruiser was removed and replaced with a plastic one. J. Tierney found the information later in the meeting with the amount for the cruiser $75,000 is the amount of transfer.

Motion to sign the transfer of $75,000 by: A. Rossetto
Tabled by A. Rossetto - until the Chief came back in.

J. Tierney asked the Chief if the $75,000 is the correct number? Chief Kenison said yes.

Motion to sign the transfer of $75,000 by: A. Rossetto
2nd by: W. Montgomery, All in Favor 3-0

b. Moving EMS - J. Gibson - there has been some suggestions made, wherever he is moved, he needs a file room that locks and an office that locks. Temporarily, I have people moving stuff upstairs and he will do what he can going up and down. We talked about this a long time ago, we are sitting on a 1.2 mil grant. He feels it's time to look at that again. The file room needs to be separate from the office. And only accessed by him. The office space needs room enough for a desk, computer, etc.; the file room can be smaller than 10'x12'.

When he moves, he has to reapply for Medicare and Medicaid positioning for the physical address. He won't be able to bill anything during that process, which takes 90-120 days.

J. Tierney discussed putting a wall up in the conference room just past the side door into the TC office that space can be his file room, his office can be in front of it. Tierney discussed further. Michelle said the Supervisors of the Checklist would need to use the outside stairs. T. Charron said they are miserable in the winter. Jim said we can see about putting up a permanent wall, that space has handicap access.

E. Brown asked how they would get out in case of a fire. Jim T. talked about looking into a ladder that can be dropped down. Discussed the window size, T. Charron said they are not big enough for us to get out. Al - he can work with the Town Administrator and come up with a plan that everyone can review. Andre - it's any occupied space not just necessarily bedrooms.

T. Charron asked where will you move the assessors to? If Kathy isn't in they can't get to the back room. M. Randall said they have remote access now. Jim T. further discussed.

A. Brasseur asked about the grant money, it has an expiration date. J. Tierney said there was a plan done when Mike Phillips was here for an addition on the back side of the Town Office. Jim described the addition, there was also the possibility of a 2 vehicle garage for the ambulances. Al noted that he and Mark Robinson worked out a design w/o the hall. He believes the grant money we have expires the end of this year. Jim T. asked Michelle to check the grant for any wording regarding having it done by an engineer.

N. Merrow is assuming that Jim Gibson will be a part of this group. Al said yes and further discussed.

Jerry Monahan asked where is EMS located now? Upstairs over the PD. J. Gibson can't go up and downstairs.

c. MAPS – Informational - J. Tierney said this is for Romy to include with last week's minutes. Michelle - It's the final approved Mitigation plan. The reimbursements have been sent to the State to get reimbursed for the $9,000 we put into it. It was in the works when she started. There are a lot of people that were involved in this. It's supposed to be updated every 5 years.

Al asked if it's something that can be put on the web-site? Andre noted there are some things you might not want everyone to know. He suggested asking the lady that put it together. M. Randall sent her email and received an answer; she says that the entire digital plan can go on the website. There's no phone numbers, no personal phone numbers, or sensitive information. The entire hazard mitigation process is meant to be public.

7. Applications/Permits and Warrants:

a. **Non-Resident Transfer Station Map/Lots:** Multiple apps. All fees paid.

1. Map/Lot #251-013 - Michael Francis
2. Map/Lot #251-013 - Diane Krohn
3. Map/Lot #237-025 - Mark Yelle
4. Map/Lot Richard Dupuis

Motion to approve all the Non Resident Transfer Station permits above by: A. Rossetto
2nd by: W. Montgomery, All in Favor 3-0

5. Map/Lot #234-012 - James Gracie & Heather Petty - 907 Lost Nation Rd. Fee Paid -

Motion to approve by: A. Rossetto, 2nd by: W. Montgomery, All in Favor 3-0

b. **Zoning Permits Map/Lots:**

1. Map/Lot #246-028-00-00 - Shawn Gregg, Page Hill Rd. Small 200 sq ft cabin, dry - no Plumbing, only electric will be hooked up. Was originally approved under 2025-22 Renewal of 225-032 - expired March 31. Al has not seen it, he thinks we should waive the fee. Motion to sign the permit and waive the fee by: A. Rossetto
2nd by: W. Montgomery, All in Favor 3-0

2. Map/Lot #237-002-00-00 - Adrian Reyes, 789 Lancaster Rd. Install 28' x 30' prefabricated metal garage. Al called and left a message asking what the distance is, it's a 20' setback, he thinks he's good but needs to confirm the side lot clearance.
Motion to approve pending receiving the dimension from him by: A. Rossetto
2nd by: W. Montgomery, All in Favor 3-0

Chris suggested following up at the next meeting.

3. Map/Lot #229-002-00-00 - Judith Gesel - maintenance due to neglect, replace joists that need to be replaced, change window, remove beam. Al suggested tabling and he will call. The fee isn't paid.
Motion to table by: W. Montgomery, 2nd by: A. Rossetto, All in Favor 3-0

c. **Veterans Credits Map/Lots:** J. Tierney reviewed each application

1. Map/Lot #104-037 - Motion to sign the Veterans Credit application by: A. Rossetto
2nd by: W. Montgomery, All in Favor 3-0

2. Map/Lot #107-001 - Motion to sign the Veterans Credit application by: A. Rossetto
2nd by: W. Montgomery, All in Favor 3-0
3. Map/Lot #107-001 - Motion to sign the Veterans Credit application by: A. Rossetto
2nd by: W. Montgomery, All in Favor 3-0

4. Map/Lot #226-006 - Motion to sign the Veterans Credit application by: A. Rossetto
2nd by: W. Montgomery, All in Favor 3-0

d. **Abatements Map/Lots:**

1. Map/Lot #249-011-00-00 - From NPV - 1196 Lancaster Rd. recommends the Board approve reducing the value from: $304,640 to $294.440 for the 2025 tax year
Motion to approve the abatement by: A. Rossetto, 2nd by: W. Montgomery, All in Favor 3-0

2. Map/Lot #104-105-00-00 - 84 Hillside Ave., recommending the Board approve reducing the value from: $141,400 to $81,795 for the 2025 tax year
Motion to approve the abatement by: A. Rossetto, 2nd by: W. Montgomery, All in Favor 3-0

3. Map/Lot #215-001-02-00 - 235 Cumberland St. recommending the Board approve reducing the value from: $272,230 to $213,280 for the 2025 tax year
Motion to approve the abatement by: A. Rossetto, 2nd by: W. Montgomery, All in Favor 3-0

8. **Public Comment:

- T. Morrill asked what the occupancy limit is for this room. 53. And what if there is more than that? J. Tierney said if it's a nice day we can go outside, if not it will be cancelled, we can't have more than that in here. If you know there will be more, let the office know in advance and we can make arrangements for St. Francis Hall, Carter Hall, or maybe the gym at the High School.

- E. Brown - at a previous meeting we talked about grants for the covered bridge but the Town Administrator wasn't available. M. Randall said we haven't looking into anything yet, she will look into see if there is anything we can do. She understands part of the issue is because it's not used for traffic. J. Tierney added that lead paint is another issue, none can be dropped into the river. Jim further discussed, one option was lifting it off the abutments, putting it on the mill property, strip the paint off, reset the abutments and move it back. Eric said Tammy was looking into a $5mil grant and then another one, but she left before anything was done. Tierney - that was a specific grant for a company that makes a material like Trex. It would handle the traffic and we could still use it for the snowmobiles and ATV's. Eric - it's likely that paint is going into the river now, at what point does the EPA get involved. Jerry asked if the paint has been tested for lead? Yes it has a couple of times.

- N. Merrow asked about the minutes and not getting them posted on the web-site in a timely manner M. Randall said they are being posted. Nancy said they are not, she still can't get them. Becky commented the minutes are marked as "Draft" in the title. Nancy's not sure why they are not getting posted. M. Randall looked on the web-site. The minutes have been getting posted except the last 2 meetings.

- Lupine McDonough - This Saturday there will be a public event re: Cell Towers and their affects. Dr. Ken Chamberlin is presenting at In the Woods on Saturday at 3:00 pm. In the interest of our shared education, everyone is invited to come. There will be a question answer session at the end.

- J. Monahan - is the $75,000 just to purchase the cruiser. It's the cruiser and to outfit. Chief Kenison further discussed.

- D. Montgomery suggested making arrangements to have the Planning Board meeting re: the Cell Tower on May 13th at another location instead of waiting until the day before. Sharon Frizzell would be the contact for Carter Hall.

- C. Wheeler asked about the repairs on the train, - is it still being advertised? Michelle said the GoFundMe is still active approx. $3,100 - it has nothing to do with the Town. Chris - Jim Weagle had said there was a lot of money set aside for it. R. Charron said the Conservation put in money ($15,000) that is being held by the Town. AHEAD came to a previous meeting and wants to do some work on it with volunteers. Chris asked if the money owed to the volunteer ladies ever paid what they were owed.

  D. Mongomery commented that we are called the Groveton Garden Group now, there are 5-6 of us involved. We were a budget line item to get $1,500 from the Town for this year. We were told there is no way to find out how the money given to the Beautification Comm was spent. Debbie said we requested accountability and were told we couldn't get it. J. Weagle and Courtney Perkins were on the bank account, but the bank can't share any information with us. There is nothing we can do about it, unfortunately. We as a group will make sure that anything like this doesn't happen again. Wayne - there is a long story that goes with this and there is just no way to recover anything. There's nothing that can be done. Debbie - Courtney did some things that weren't beautification, some money was used for Trunk or Treat, etc. - it was used for the children. K. Frechette commented that if she remembers correctly there was nothing in the warrant article that required accountability. Wayne - they were the only fund on the list that was not a nonprofit.

- A. Rossetto read a request from Dave Auger - Please consider the motion below at a Board meeting in May as Affinity LED will be wanting to connect with a Town representative soon.

  Motion to approve the Northumberland Energy Committee as the Board of Selectmen's project committee to assist, coordinate and communicate progress and updates with regard to the Town's LED Streetlight conversion project. This Temporary, no-cost appointment will confer no authority to obligate the Town to financial or other obligations, and is for the sole purpose of assisting with the singular cost saving initiative by: A. Rossetto, 2nd by: W. Montgomery, All in Favor 3-0

- K. Frechette - asked about someone replacing telephone poles, she had to get them to move so she could go to work. J. Tierney didn't have any idea on the issue.

9. Announcements:

10. Next Board Meeting Date: Monday May 18, 2026 6:00 pm

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

Motion to go into Non-Public session by: W. Montgomery
2nd by: J Tierney, All in Favor 3-0
Roll Call: J. Tierney - Yes, A. Rossetto - Yes, W. Montgomery - Yes

Into Non-Public session at 8:01 pm

a. Personnel Matter(s)

b. Other - Statistical analysis

Motion to come out of Non-Public session by: A. Rossetto
2nd by: W. Montgomery, All in Favor 3-0

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Out of Non-Public session at 9:10 pm
Into Regular session at 9:10 pm

No other business was discussed.

12. Adjournment:

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

Meeting adjourned at 9:11 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca St. Cyr, Minute Taker/Transcriber

*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).

Minutes approved by Northumberland Select Board Members on_____

X _____
James Tierney
Northumberland Select Board Chairman

X_____
Alan Rossetto
Northumberland Select Board Vice Chairman

X_____
Wayne Montgomery
Northumberland Select Board Member