

**TOWN OF HOLDERNESS  
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING-MINUTES  
MARCH 13 & 14, 2012**

At the annual Town Meeting of the Town of Holderness held on March 13 and 14, 2012 the following business was transacted.

At 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, March 13, 2012, at the Holderness Town Hall, Moderator Ross Deachman convened the meeting and began reading the warrant. After Articles 1 and 2 the Moderator declared the polls opened. At 7:00 p.m., Moderator Deachman declared the polls closed and the ballots counted. Results were announced and the Moderator declared the winners.

At 8:00 p.m. on Wednesday, March 14, 2012 at Holderness Central School the Meeting resumed following the Holderness Central School District Meeting. Moderator Ross Deachman announced the results of Article 1 and declared the winners. The Moderator declared that Article 2 (the Zoning Amendments) had all passed. Moderator Deachman announced the Holderness Central and Pemi-Baker District results. Moderator Deachman asked for a moment of silence for those residents that had passed away during the year of 2011.

**Article 1:** To choose all Town Officers by official ballot:

**Selectmen for 3 years: (Vote for One)**

John W. Laverack, Jr. 152

**Trustee of Trust Funds for 3 Years: (Vote for One)**

Bonnie M. Hunt 154

**Library Trustee for 3 Years: (Vote for Two)**

Thomas "Ted" Vansant 143

Victor K. Currier 143

**Fire Ward for 3 Years: (Vote for One)**

Randy Eastman 153

**Supervisor of the Checklist for 6 Years: (Vote for One)**

Frances Taylor 153

**Article 2:** 2012 Proposed Zoning Ordinance Changes

To see how the Town will vote by official ballot on the proposed amendments, as recommended by the Planning Board, to the Town Zoning Ordinance as follows:

1. Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment No. 1 as proposed by the Planning Board for the Town Zoning Ordinance as follows: Amend Section 700.2 Structures to clarify the zoning rights associated with non-conforming structures existing prior to the adoption of zoning?

Yes 125 No 30

**2. Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment No. 2 as proposed by the Planning Board for the Town Zoning Ordinance as follows: Amend Section 700.3 Lots to clarify the zoning rights associated with non-conforming lots existing prior to the adoption of zoning?**

Yes 126 No 30

**3. Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment No. 3 as proposed by the Planning Board for the Town Zoning Ordinance as follows: Amend Section 400.10 Sewage and Waste Disposal Systems to clarify that changes to a structure or change of use of a structure that will cause an increase or change of use in sewage and waste disposal must conform to state and local septic regulations?**

Yes 135 No 24

**4. Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment No. 4 as proposed by the Planning Board for the Town Zoning Ordinance as follows: Add Section 400.10.1 Gray Water Systems – which prohibits Gray Water systems?**

Yes 97 No 60

**5. Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment No. 5 as proposed by the Planning Board for the Town Zoning Ordinance as follows: Amend Section 400.8.1.2 to clarify that setback requirements apply to wells?**

Yes 123 No 35

**6. Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment No. 6 as proposed by the Planning Board for the Town Zoning Ordinance as follows: Amend Section 800.3 Variances – to be consistent with RSA 674:33 and 674:33-a?**

Yes 123 No 26

**7. Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment No. 7 as proposed by the Planning Board for the Town Zoning Ordinance as follows: Add a Definition for non-residential development to be consistent with Site Plan Regulations?**

Yes 133 No 22

**8. Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment No. 8 as proposed by the Planning Board for the Town Zoning Ordinance as follows: Add Definitions terms associated with Septic Systems (or Individual Septic Disposal Systems – ISDS) as defined by the NH Code of Administrative Rules Env-Wq?**

Yes 131 No 25

**CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT  
ELECTION RESULTS**

**School Board Member for 3 years: (Vote for Two)**

Carolyn Mello    133  
Bonni Acton     147

***HOLDERNESS ELECTION RESULTS  
PEMI-BAKER REGIONAL SCHOOL  
DISTRICT***

***Moderator for 2 years: (Vote for One)***

*Quentin Blaine     99*

***School Board Member for 3 Years: (Vote for one)***

***Ashland***

*Catherine E. Hahn     94*

***School Board Member for 3 Years: (Vote for one)***

***Campton***

*Lisa Ash             94*

***School Board Member for 3 Years: (Vote for one)***

***Holderness***

*Andrew C. Hancock   102*

***School Board Member for 1 Year: (Vote for one)***

***Holderness***

*Sam Brickley         103*

***School Board Member for 3 Years: (Vote for one)***

***Plymouth***

*Barbara A. Noyes     95*

***School Board Member for 3 Years: (Vote for one)***

***Thornton***

*Carolyn M. Varin     92*

***HOLDERNESS ELECTION RESULTS  
PEMI-BAKER REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT-WARRANT ARTICLES***

**Article 1:** *To see if the School District will vote to authorize the School Board to negotiate and execute such tuition contracts as the Board may determine advisable for students inside or outside the Pemi-Baker Regional School District. The School Board recommends this article. (Majority vote required.)*

Yes    144                      No    19

**Article 2:** *To see if the School District will vote to establish a contingency fund in accordance with Revised Statutes Annotated 198:4-b, such contingency fund to meet the cost of unanticipated expenses that may arise during the year and, further, to see if the District will raise and appropriate the sum of one thousand dollars (\$1,000) for such contingency fund. The School Board recommends this article. (Majority vote required.)*

Yes 140                      No 26

**Article 3:** *To see if the School District will vote to approve the cost items included in a collective bargaining agreement reached between the School Board and the Plymouth Regional Education Association, which calls for the following increases in salaries and benefits:*

<u>Year</u>	<u>Estimated Increase</u>
2012-2013	\$74,309

*and further to raise and appropriate the sum of seventy-four thousand three hundred nine dollars (\$74,309) for the 2012-2013 fiscal year, such sum representing the additional costs attributable to the increase in salaries and benefits over those of the appropriation at current staffing levels in accordance with the most recent collective bargaining agreement. The School Board recommends this article. (Majority vote required.)*

Yes 101                      No 64

**Article 4:** *To see if the School District vote to approve the cost items included in a collective bargaining agreement reached between the School Board and the Plymouth Regional Educational Support Staff, which calls for the following increases in salaries and benefits:*

<u>Year</u>	<u>Estimated Increase</u>
2012-2013	\$12,291

*and further to raise and appropriate the sum of twelve thousand two hundred ninety-one dollars (\$12,291) for the 2012-2013 fiscal year, such sum representing the additional costs attributable to the increase in salaries and benefits over those of the appropriation at current staffing levels in accordance with the most recent collective bargaining agreement. The School Board recommends this article. (Majority vote required.)*

Yes 107                      No 57

**Article 5:** *To see if the School District will vote to authorize and empower the School Board to borrow up to one hundred four thousand dollars (\$104,000) representing a portion of the State of New Hampshire's share of special education costs for the 2012-2013 school year, pursuant to RSA 198:20-d upon such terms and conditions as the School Board determines in the best interests of the District; said sum together with the costs of borrowing to be repaid by the State of New Hampshire pursuant to RSA 198:20-d; or to take any action in relation thereto. The School Board recommends this article. (Majority vote required.)*

Yes 128                      No 36

**Article 6:** *To see if the School District will vote to raise and appropriate as an operating budget, not including appropriations by special warrant articles and other appropriations voted separately, the amounts set forth on the budget posted with the warrant or as amended by vote of the first session (deliberative session) for the purpose set forth therein, totaling twelve million five hundred fifty-one thousand six hundred dollars (\$12,551,600). The Board recommends this article (Majority vote required.)*

*Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be twelve million seven hundred one thousand two hundred ninety-three dollars (\$12,701,293), which is the same as last year, with certain adjustments by law or the governing body may hold one special meeting, in accordance with RSA 40:13, X and XVI, to take up the issue of a revised operating budget only. This sum excludes the sums in Warrant Articles 2, 3 and 4.*

Yes 134                      No 29

**Article 3:** To see if the Town will vote to accept the reports of all Town Officers and Committees.

Moved by Malcolm “Tink” Taylor and seconded by Peg Winton. No discussion. A voice vote was taken and the Article **PASSED**.

**Article 4:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the budget committee recommended sum of Two Million and One Hundred and Fifty-nine Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$2,159,500) for general municipal operations. Said sum does not include special or individual articles elsewhere within this warrant.  
**Recommended by the Selectmen; (5 yeas 0 nays) and Budget Committee; (5 yeas, 0 nays)**

Moved by Earl Hansen and seconded by Alicia Abbott. No discussion. A voice vote was taken and the Article **PASSED**.

**Article 5:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Three Hundred and Sixty-five Thousand Dollars (\$365,000) to be placed into the following Capital Reserve Funds:

Fire/Rescue Vehicles	\$40,000
Road Reconstruction	150,000
White Oak Pond Dam	1,000
Transfer Station Equipment	2,000
Municipal Buildings	20,000
Revaluation	35,000
Library	10,000
Fire Equipment	6,000
Public Works Vehicles	45,000
Police Cruiser	24,000
Employee Health Insurance Trust	17,000

Conservation	5,000
Abatement Legal Defense Fund	<u>10,000</u>
	<b>\$365,000</b>

**Recommended by the Selectmen; (5 yeas 0 nays) and Budget Committee; (5 yeas, 0 nays).**

Moved by Earl Hansen and seconded by Peg Winton. No discussion. A voice vote was taken and the Article **PASSED**.

**Article 6:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Three Hundred and Fifty-nine Thousand One Hundred Dollars (\$359,100) for the following capital projects and to fund this appropriation by authorizing the Selectmen to withdraw the sums indicated from the following designated Capital Reserve Funds for these purposes:

Road Reconstruction	\$150,000
Revaluation	35,000
Fire/Rescue Vehicles	46,600
Library Improvements	10,000
Highway Department Vehicle	72,000
Police Cruiser	38,000
Fire Equipment	<u>7,500</u>
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$359,100</b>

This is a special warrant article.

**Recommended by the Selectmen; (5 yeas 0 nays) and Budget Committee; (5 yeas, 0 nays)**

Moved by Alden Vansickle and seconded by Earl Hansen. No discussion. A voice vote was taken and the Article **PASSED**.

**Article 7** To see if the Town will vote to establish a Recreation Revolving Fund pursuant to RSA 35-B:2 II. The money received from fees and charges for recreation services and facilities shall be allowed to accumulate from year to year, and shall not be considered to be part of the general fund unreserved fund balance. The treasurer shall have custody of all monies in the fund, and shall pay out the same only upon order of the board of selectmen and recreation director (no further legislative body approval required). These funds may be expended only for recreation purposes as stated in RSA 35-B, and no expenditure shall be made in such a way as to require the expenditure of other funds that have not been appropriated for that purpose.

Moved by Earl Hansen and seconded by Peg Winton. No discussion. A voice vote was taken and the Article **PASSED**.

**Article 8** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Seven Thousand Dollars (\$7,000) to be place in the Emergency Management Non-capital Expendable Trust fund. Said amount to be taken from the FY2012 fund balance.

**Recommended by the Selectmen; (5 yeas 0 nays) and Budget Committee; ( 5 yeas, 0 nays)**

Moved by Fran Taylor and seconded by Barbara Currier. No discussion. A voice vote was taken and the Article **PASSED**.

**Article 9** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Five Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$5,500) for the purchase of up to five new computer work stations for the town office. Said amount to be raised by taxation.

**Recommended by the Selectmen; (5 yeas 0 nays) and Budget Committee; (5 yeas, 0 nays)**

Moved by Eric Simensen and seconded by Earl Hansen. No discussion. A voice vote was taken and the Article **PASSED**.

**Article 10** To see if the Town will vote to completely discontinue, per RSA 231:43, a section of the old Holderness – Plymouth Road on the present Holderness School campus beginning at the intersection with the west side of Route 175 then westerly along a portion of Chapel Lane to the intersection of South Campus Road and the section of Chapel Lane beginning at the intersection of the west side of Route 175 north of the frog pond to the intersection with South Campus Road, said discontinuance to extinguish all rights of public easement; further to authorize the Selectmen to provide a deed without covenants to the School, to confirm that the Town has no remaining interest in the road.

Moved by Earl Hansen and seconded by Peg Winton. Bruce Whitmore asked for an explanation for this Article. Selectman Peter Webster explained that the purpose of this Article is that the Town would no longer be responsible to maintain and snow plow this small portion of road located on the campus of Holderness School. A voice vote was taken and the Article **PASSED**.

**Article 11** **WHEREAS**, the Town of HOLDERNESS currently has an existing electrical transmission line carry High Voltage Alternating Current (HVAC) through the town designated by Public Service Company of New Hampshire as Line X-178; and,  
**WHEREAS**, the aforementioned transmission line is mounted on forty 40 to 50 foot tall wooden poles, some of which are below adjacent tree lines; and,

**WHEREAS**, the proposed Northern pass transmission line would carry 1200 Megawatts of High Voltage Direct Current (HVDC) power generally south from Canada through New Hampshire, including through portions of the Town of HOLDERNESS, on visually damaging power lines hung from tall, intrusive steel towers at heights ranging from eighty (80') feet to one hundred and thirty (135') feet in the air, well above tree height; and, **WHEREAS**, the Voters of the Town of HOLDERNESS have concluded that the Northern Pass transmission line, as it has been proposed, would cause significant degradation of real estate property values resulting in dramatic losses of property tax receipts, well in excess of any conceivable property tax revenues from levying tax assessments on the aforesaid towers and transmission lines; and,

**WHEREAS**, numerous other negative impacts from the aforesaid proposed Northern Pass transmission line will occur or can reasonably be expected to occur, over time, including, but not limited to:

- a. A significant drop in tourist visits, and consequently, revenues, as damages from the power lines to New Hampshire's natural scenic beauty will be a deterrent to people coming to the region.
- b. A drop in toll fees and New Hampshire gas tax revenues as motorists choose other routes into Northern New England, or worse, choose not to come at all.
- c. The strong possibility of negative health impacts from Electro Magnetic Fields (EMF's) radiating from 1200 Megawatt HVDC cables.
- d. A drop in business revenues, and consequently, a drop in employment at impacted businesses such as; ski areas, restaurants, gas stations, construction firms, shops, stores, banks, real estate firms, to name just a few—all of which are heavily dependent upon visitors coming to the area.

**Therefore**, the undersigned citizens of HOLDERNESS, by petition, respectfully ask the town to adopt the following ordinance:

*Other than high voltage electrical transmission lines in existence as of the effective date of this ordinance, there shall be no further overhead development of alternating current or direct current high voltage transmission lines allowed within the borders of the Town of Holderness. All such future electrical transmission lines must be placed underground within power line rights of way or within yet to be established power line corridors, and installed in a manner approved by the State of New Hampshire's Public Utility Commission and/or Department of Transportation. Distribution lines carrying electrical power and other utility lines such as telephone and cable television for local residential or commercial use may continue to be installed above ground, but undergrounding of such lines, is strongly recommended and encouraged.*

*This ordinance shall take effect immediately upon its passage.*

**This article is by petition.**

Moderator Deachman stated “in the opinion of the Moderator, as framed, this is an illegal Article but can be moved as a sense of the meeting. We cannot adopt an ordinance on this subject that would be effective and or enforceable and we would put the Town in an untenable position if we were to adopt such an ordinance and require the Board of Selectmen to enforce it.” Moderator asked if there was a Motion to move “as a sense of the meeting”. Moved by Carl Lehner and seconded by Larry Spencer. Melanie Fisk spoke on this article. Amanda Loud asked the meaning of “as sense of the meeting?” Moderator explained this information could be communicated to the Planning Board and Zoning Board to see if they could incorporate new provisions into the zoning ordinances and the Board of Selectman could communicate the sense of this meeting to the Utility Commission but it would not be binding. Robert Tuveson spoke in favor of this article. A voice vote was taken and the Motion **PASSED**.

**Article 12:** To see if the town will vote to adopt a Rights-Based Ordinance to protect the Health, Safety and Welfare of the Residents and Ecosystems of Holderness, NH, by establishing a Bill of Rights; by recognizing the Right to a Sustainable Energy Future and by Prohibiting the siting of new energy projects that violate the People’s Right to a Sustainable Energy Future. A copy of the complete proposed ordinance is on file with the town clerks office.

**This article is by petition.**

Moderator Deachman ruled that Article 12 attempts to legislate matters that the town is not authorized by statute or law to legislate. The Moderator called for a motion to overrule the chair, none was forthcoming and Article 12 **was passed over**.

Article 13: To transact any other business that can legally come before the meeting.

The Moderator expressed his appreciation and thanks to all who were involved in the planning of the Holderness 250<sup>th</sup> celebration. Moderator recognized and thanked Malcolm “Tink” Taylor for all of his time and effort and for finding the original Holderness Charter located at the Library at the University of New Hampshire. Mr. Taylor received a standing ovation.

Peter Webster stated that the Selectmen had recognized and thanked Malcolm “Tink” Taylor at a Selectboard meeting.

Moderator Deachman declared the meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ellen King  
Holderness Town Clerk

