

## ANNUAL TOWN MEETING MARCH 8 AND MARCH 9, 2022

At the Annual Town Meeting of the Town of Holderness held on March 8 and 9, 2022 the following business was transacted.

At 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, March 8, 2022, at the Holderness Town Hall, Moderator Daniel Rossner declared the polls opened.

At 7:00 p.m. Moderator Rossner declared the polls closed and the ballots were counted.

At 7:02 p.m. on Wednesday, March 9, 2022 at the Holderness Central School, the meeting resumed following the Holderness Central School Meeting. Moderator, Rossner recognized the Veterans and asked our local State Representative, Sallie Fellows, to lead the Pledge of Allegiance. The meeting observed a moment of silence when the Moderator read the names of the residents as well as James H. Merrill Jr. who passed away in 2021. The Moderator explained the rules of the meeting to the voters. Moderator Rossner, then recognized the dedication of the *2021 Town Report* to our recently retired Fire Chief, Eleanor Mardin which was followed by a round of applause by the voters. The Moderator also recognized and welcomed the new Fire Chief, Jeremy Bonan. Moderator Rossner proceeded to declare Article 1; and Article 2 the Zoning Amendments: passed. The Moderator asked for a motion to allow Department Heads that are not residents of Holderness be able to comment and provide information on Articles that relate to their expertise. Moved by Sallie Fellows and seconded by Malcolm "Tink" Taylor. A voice vote was taken and the motion passed. Moderator Rossner asked for a motion to dispense with the reading of the warrant in its entirety. Moved by Earl Hansen and seconded by John Jenkinson. A voice vote was taken and the motion passed.

**Article 1:** To choose all Town Officers by Official Ballot.

**Selectman for 3 Years: (Vote for Two)**

Sam Brickley 146

Kelly Schwaner 140

write in:

Mike McLaughlin 1

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

Barbara Laflamme 145

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

Edith Jaconsky-Hamersma 147

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

Andrew Herring	141
Elizabeth Whitmore	140
write in:	
Deborah Holland	1
Al Mather	1

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

Earl Hansen	142
write in:	
William Currier	1

**Article 2: 2022 Proposed Zoning Ordinance Changes:** To see if the Town will vote by official ballot on the proposed amendment, as recommended by the Planning Board, to the Town of Holderness as follows:

**Amendment No. 1:** “Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment No. 1 as proposed by the Planning Board, to the Town of Holderness Zoning Ordinance as follows: Add a new section 400.25, Solar Collection Systems, which would allow ground-or roof-mounted solar energy collection systems for on-site residential use in all districts by building permit subject to screening, lot coverage, impervious surface, height and placement restrictions; allow roof-mounted commercial systems complying with residential solar building height restrictions on the same terms as residential systems in all districts; allow roof-mounted commercial systems exceeding residential solar building height and ground-mounted commercial systems through site plan review depending on size (1 acre or less of solar coverage in General Residential District and Village Area of Commercial District, 25 acres or less in Rural Residential District, and 50 acres or less in Commercial District excluding Village Area); regulate commercial systems in terms of land clearing, setbacks, screening, fencing, stormwater, lighting, noise, emergency response, safety and abandonment ?”

Yes 140

No 14

**Amendment No. 2:** “Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment No. 2 as proposed by the Planning Board, to the Town of Holderness Zoning Ordinance as follows:

*To streamline the provisions of Section 400.14 and Section 700.1.3 regarding conversion of seasonal structures to year-round use as follows:*

*Section 400.14: to be replaced in its entirety:*

**400.14: Seasonal Conversion:**

A permit from the Select Board or their designated representative shall be required before conversion of any *structure* currently used for *seasonal use* to year-round or permanent use. The permit shall require that the septic system will meet current requirements for the intended use per NH RSA 485-A:38 and that the converted structure will comply with the New Hampshire Energy Code administered by the Public

Utilities Commission. The permit may be approved only if the *structure* is either fully in compliance with the zoning ordinance in effect at the time of *application* or in the case of a grandfathered non-conforming *structure* such conversion does not increase the non-conformity.

*Section 700.1.3: strike the redundant and conflicting reference to seasonal conversion*

**700.1.3:** Nonconforming uses may not be expanded in a manner which would cause it to be substantially different from the use to which it was put before *expansion*; such *expansions* shall meet the regulations of the district in which the activity occurs. ~~A change from seasonal to year round use shall constitute a substantial expansion or change of use for purposes of this Ordinance.??~~

Yes 133

No 21

### **Holderness Central School District Election Results**

#### **School Board Member for 3 Years: (Vote for Two)**

Samuel Damon	147
Joanne Pearce	146
write in:	
Lisa Conway	1
Bruce Barton	1
Mike McLaughlin	1
Lisa Lovett	1

#### **School District Moderator for 3 Years: (Vote for One)**

write in:	
Lisetta Silvestri	5
Tink Taylor	5
Martha Richards	3
Dan Rossner	2
Ken Evans	1
Katherine Lovett Weymouth	1
Bonni Acton	1
Deb Holland	1
Brian Sutherland	1
Patricia O'Neill	1
Moe Lafreniere	1
Bill Webb	1
Joe Casey	1
Angel Fransico	1
Jill Bonan	1

#### **School District Clerk for 3 Years: (Vote for One)**

write in:	
Sara Weinberg	6
Linda Levy	1
Justin Van Etten	1

Helen Levy	1
Ken Evans	1
Eileen Lovett	1
Bannik ( <i>last name illegible</i> )	1
Moe Lafreniere	1
Anne McKenny	1
Bonnie Webb	1
Ellen King	1

The Moderator announced the results of Article 1, the ballot vote for Town Officers.

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

Moved by Earl Hansen and seconded by Walter Johnson. 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's recommended sum of Two Million Nine Hundred Fifty-Five Thousand Two Hundred Eighty dollars (\$2,955,280) for general municipal operations. Said sum does not include special or individual articles elsewhere within this warrant. (Majority vote required)

**Recommended by the Select Board; (5 yeas, 0 nays). Recommended by the Budget Committee; (5 yeas, 0 nays)**

Moved by Earl Hansen and seconded by John Jenkinson. 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 Ninety-One Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$391,500) to be placed in the following Capital Reserve Funds: (Majority vote required)

WHITE OAK POND DAM	\$2,500
FIRE/RESCUE VEHICLES	\$75,000
ROAD RECONSTRUCTION	\$150,000
MUNICIPAL BUILDINGS	\$30,000
LIBRARY BUILDING	\$5,000
REVALUATION	\$35,000
FIRE EQUIPMENT	\$5,000
PUBLIC WORKS VEHICLES	\$46,000
CONSERVATION	\$5,000

POLICE CRUISER	\$26,000
TRANSFER STATION EQUIPMENT	\$2,000
TOWN INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY	<u>\$10,000</u>
TOTAL	\$391,500

**Recommended by the Select Board; (5 years, 0 nays). Recommended by the Budget Committee; (5 years, 0 nays)**

Moved by Earl Hansen and seconded by Larry Spencer.

Sallie Fellows asked which roads were going to be worked on this coming year? Select Board Chair, Jill White stated the roads to be worked on were paving projects on Hardhack Road, Beede Road, Seven Pines Road; continued reconstruction on Shepard Hill Road, and the continued maintenance of dirt roads.

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 Twelve Thousand Dollars (\$12,000) to be placed in the New Cable Service Expansion Capital Reserve Fund with funds for this appropriation to come from the unassigned fund balance. No additional funds will be raised by taxation. (Majority vote required)

**Recommended by the Select Board; (5 years, 0 nays). Recommended by the Budget Committee; (5 years, 0 nays)**

Moved by Fran Taylor 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 raise and appropriate the sum of Three Hundred Thirty-Seven Thousand Seven Hundred Dollars (\$337,700) for the following Capital projects and to fund this appropriation by authorizing the Select Board to withdraw the sums indicated from Capital Reserve Funds and Revolving Funds as noted: No additional funds will be raised through taxation. (Majority vote required)

Road Reconstruction: \$200,000 (from the Road Reconstruction Capital Reserve Fund)

Ford F-350 4WD Pickup truck \$62,000 (from the Public Works Vehicle Capital Reserve Fund)

Revaluation (Cycle Inspections): \$25,000 (from Revaluation Capital Reserve Fund)

SUV for Police Department: \$45,000 (\$35,000 from the Police Cruiser Capital Reserve Fund and \$10,000 from the Police Department Revolving Fund)

Town IT Equipment: \$5700 Replacement of Two Workstations in the Town Office and One Workstation at the Police Department. (from the Town Information Technology Capital Reserve Fund)

**Recommended by the Select Board; (5 years, 0 nays). Recommended by the Budget Committee; (5 years, 0 nays)**

Moved by John Jenkinson and seconded by Earl Hansen.

The Moderator read an amendment submitted by Select Board Chair, Jill White. Ms. White moved to amend Article 7 by replacing the “Ford F-350 4WD Pickup truck \$62,000” to a “*4WD Pickup truck with plow and sander \$ 62,000*”; and also replace the “SUV for Police Department \$ 45,000 with a “*Police Department Vehicle \$ 45,000* “: Earl Hansen provided a second.

A voice vote was taken and the amendment **PASSED**.

Walter Johnson asked what type of cruiser are were buying? Chief, Eric DiFilippe, answered that due to lack of availability of vehicles it could either be a sedan, SUV or pickup, whatever we can get.

A voice vote was taken and the article **PASSED, as amended**.

**Article 8:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000.00) to be placed in the Town’s Abatement Capital Reserve Fund and to further authorize the use of \$50,000 from the unassigned fund balance for this purpose. No additional funds will be raised through taxation. (Majority vote required)

**Recommended by the Select Board; (5 yeas, 0 nays). Recommended by the Budget Committee; (5 yeas, 0 nays)**

Moved by Earl Hansen and seconded by Linda Levy. No discussion.

A voice vote was taken and the Article **PASSED**.

**Article 9:** To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to accept on behalf of the Town gifts, legacies and devices made to the Town in trust for any public purpose, as permitted by RSA 31:19. This authority shall remain in effect until rescinded.

Moderator Rossner explained this was granted many years ago, and the wording was to allow the Select Board to accept gifts. As an example, he mentioned that if someone wanted to donate money to the Town to support the Summer Concert Series, the Select Board could accept the funds and use them specifically for that purpose.

Moved by Earl Hansen and seconded by Fran Taylor.

Sheryl Shirley asked if there are any limits on the amount of the gift? Moderator Rossner, answered there is no limit on how large of a gift can be accepted on this article. James “JB” Currell questioned if the town was given several million dollars could the Board randomly spend that much money? Select Board Chair, Jill White, stated the intention of this article is to use these funds for the community such as the concert series held for several years with the Holderness Historical Society acting as the Fiscal Agent. Ms. White responded to Mr. Currell’s question and stated that if the Town received a gift of that size there would be a public hearing in the spirit of transparency to get the input from the public for the intended use of these funds. Campbell Lovett asked if the Board of Selectmen also have the authority to not accept any gift. Select Board, Jill White answered that the Board doesn’t have to accept any gift. Bonnie Hunt, Trustee of Trust Funds, stated that if the gift is accepted the Trustees work in conjunction with the Select Board as far as allocating and investing the funds appropriately.

A voice vote was taken and the Article **PASSED**.

**Article 10:** By Petition: To see if the Town will authorize the Town of Holderness Board of Selectmen to accept conveyance by Deed of Pleasant Place Drive, being the roadway within the Holderness

Meadows Development owned and developed by West Street Development, LLC. Don R. Latulippe, Sole Member, to the Town of Holderness as a Town Road. The said roadway, which provides access to 9 lots within the Holderness Meadows Development which have all been sold and shall soon be developed upon, has been paved and has been constructed to meet all Town standards for a roadway.

Select Board chair, Jill White stated the following position of the Select Board on Article 10:

**“The Board chose not to take a formal position on Article 10 prior to this meeting as historically we have not taken formal positions on petitioned articles relative to possible new roads. However, after much discussion amongst the Board and with our Road Agent we would like to make the public aware that we do have some concerns with this article. It is the belief of this Board that any consideration of this article this evening is premature. There are far too many un-answered questions for us to make an informed decision about this road tonight.**

- 1. This road serves 9 house lots and there are no homes constructed on any of these lots at this time. We have no idea how the road will withstand the rigors of construction.**
- 2. We know nothing about the construction of the road. Our Road Agent was not afforded the opportunity to come and inspect the road before it was paved.**
- 3. Taking on any additional roads at this time is impractical as we do not have the manpower or equipment necessary to serve additional roads at this time. We currently have 4 employees in DPW and they each have a full 4-hour plow route.**
- 4. There is no money in the operating budget to allow for maintenance of this road.**
- 5. Currently we maintain 49 Town Roads which translates to 40 miles. There are at least twice as many private roads in Town and to take this road at this time with this level of uncertainty sets a dangerous precedent for this community.**
- 6. Because there are so many unknowns, we have no way to quantify the future impact on the budget. “**

Moderator Rossner recognized Budget Committee Chair, Kenneth Evans. Mr. Evans stated on February 24<sup>th</sup>, the Budget Committee met to discuss this Petitioned Warrant Article. After significant discussion the Budget Committee (voted 5 yeas, 1 nay and 1 abstention) to not recommend that this article pass. He noted that the Committee felt that it would not be appropriate to support an article that had uncertain future costs associated with it. The future costs could include repairs, plowing and reconstruction. Also, it sets a precedent for future developments and is unfair to all the citizens that maintain their own private roads. The Highway Department stated in their budget presentation that they are “flat out “and any additional roads would require additional labor and costly equipment. The last large truck was \$ 160,000., and this would put a strain on future capital purchases as well as our operating budget so for that reason the committee recommends this article not be recommended and a “no” vote.

Moderator Rossner recognized Kevin Barrett. Mr. Barrett stated that it was his understanding that this subdivision was approved by the Planning Board, but no promise was made that it would be maintained by the Town. He wanted to know if that was correct. Select Board Chair, Jill White responded that his understanding was correct. Mr. Barrett expressed that with the many private roads, this could set a precedent that any private road brought up to town standards would have to be taken over by the Town and strongly recommended against this article.

James “JB” Currell stated he went before the Planning Board a couple years ago to do a 3-lot subdivision. Mr. Currell was informed at the meeting he had to build a road for the 3 driveways off of one driveway

and the road had to be built to town standards. He stated he wasn't in favor of the Article. He stated he believed that he wouldn't ask the town to support his road as he is responsible for his development. He asked if you tell someone to build a road to town standards, why wouldn't the town support this road?

Moderator Rossner recognized Earl Hansen. Earl Hansen, former Planning Board member, explained that you are required to build roads to Town standards and the town has accepted roads after a period of time. The last road accepted by the Town was Lane Road and each of the property owners were assessed a fee to bring the road up to town standards and succeeded to get approval as a town road.

Moderator Rossner stated one of the concerns is that the Road Agent had requested to inspect the construction process of the road at various stages but was denied the opportunity. Sallie Fellows commented that if approved now the town will be maintaining this road where there are no houses at this time and should wait until a couple houses are built before we talk about this again. Walter Johnson moved the question and requested a vote on the Article. A voice vote was taken and the Petition Article **FAILED**.

The Moderator announced the results of the ballot votes for the Pemi-Baker School District.

**Article 11:** To transact any business that may legally come before the meeting.

Moderator Rossner recognized Select Board member, Peter Francesco. Mr. Francesco recognized and thanked Dennis Hughes, Highway Department employee for his 20 years of service and Amy Sharpe, Finance Officer for 15 years of service. The voters recognized Dennis Hughes and Amy Sharpe with a round of applause.

Moderator recognized Library Trustee, Andrew Herring. Mr. Herring thanked the voters for their support for his re-election. He stated that the Library Board would be sending out a survey by email or paper ballot to the community to see how the library can improve and be more welcoming.

With no further business to come before the meeting, Earl Hansen made a motion to adjourn. There was a second from John Jenkinson. A voice vote was taken and the motion passed. Moderator Rossner declared the meeting adjourned at 7:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ellen King  
Holderness Town Clerk