

Minutes for 2014 Annual Meeting

BALLOT ARTICLES MARCH 11, 2014

ARTICLE 1: To choose all necessary Town Officers for the year ensuing.

Results for March 11, 2014 Town Election

SELECTMAN	3 year term	Robert A. Ferriere
MODERATOR	2 year term	Louis Lieto
TREASURER	3 year term	Darlene J. Andrews
TRUSTEE OF THE TRUST FUND	3 year term	Michele D. Escobar
PLANNING BOARD	3 year term	Deborah B. Johnson
PLANNING BOARD	3 year term	Russell B. Carruth
TOWN AUDITOR	1 year term	Tammy Drolet
CEMETERY TRUSTEE	3 year term	Sharon E. Nelson
LIBRARY TRUSTEE	2 year term	Paula W. Stata
LIBRARY TRUSTEE	3 year term	Pamela K. Yinger
ZONING BOARD	2 year term	Frank V. Grelle
ZONING BOARD	3 year term	Jiri Hajek
ZONING BOARD	3 year term	Charles Stata
SUPERVISOR OF THE CHECKLIST	6 year term	Pamela E. Ferriere
SUPERVISOR OF THE CHECKLIST	4 year term	Paula W. Stata

DELIBERATIVE SESSION MARCH 15, 2014

Attendees were:

Board of Selectmen: Christina Goodwin, Miles Sinclair, Kyle Andrews

Administrative Assistant: Pamela Hamel

Town Clerk/Tax Collector: Laura Hauser

Town Moderator: Lou Lieto

Meeting was called to order at 9:00 am by Louis Lieto, Town Moderator.

ARTICLE 2: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **six hundred forty-six, six hundred fifteen dollars (\$646,615)** which represents the **Operating Budget** for the ensuing year. Said sum does not include special or individual articles addressed.

ARTICLE 2 **PASSES** as written

ARTICLE 3: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **one hundred forty-five thousand (\$145,000)** for repair/reconstruction of a portion of North Groton Road. (submitted by the Road Committee)

ARTICLE 3 **PASSES** as written

ARTICLE 4: To see if the Town will vote to discontinue receiving FIRE and EMS services from the Town of Rumney.

An amendment to ARTICLE 4 is submitted.

AMENDED ARTICLE 4: To see if the Town will vote to discontinue receiving Fire service from Town of Rumney.

To amend ARTICLE 4 **FAILS**

A vote is called on Article 4 as written

ARTICLE 4 **FAILS** 25 NO 13 YES

ARTICLE 5: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **eighty thousand, seven hundred ninety-one dollars (\$80,791)** for the purpose of purchasing a new truck for the highway department, to be offset by authorizing the transfer of **forty-two thousand dollars (\$42,000)** from the Truck/Sander Capital Reserve Fund and the remaining balance to come from taxation, with any funds received from the trade in value from the 2006 FORD F350 to be used to offset the amount raised through taxation. Article 7 is contingent upon passage of this article.

An amendment to ARTICLE 5 is submitted.

AMENDED ARTICLE 5: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **eighty thousand, seven hundred ninety-one dollars (\$80,791)** for the purpose of purchasing a new truck for the highway department, to be offset by authorizing the transfer of **forty-two thousand dollars (\$42,000)** from the Truck/Sander Capital Reserve Fund and the remaining balance to come from taxation.

To amend Article 5 **PASSES.**

A second amendment to ARTICLE 5 is submitted.

(2ND) AMENDED ARTICLE 5: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **eighty thousand, seven hundred ninety-one dollars (\$80,791)** for the purpose of purchasing a new truck for the highway department, to be offset by authorizing the transfer of **forty-two thousand dollars (\$42,000)** from the Truck/Sander Capital Reserve Fund and the remaining balance to be funded from an anticipated grant and general taxation, and trade-in value of Ford F350. Article 7 is contingent upon passage of this article.

The second amendment to ARTICLE 5 **FAILS.**

A vote is called on amended Article 5

AMENDED ARTICLE 5: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **eighty thousand, seven hundred ninety-one dollars (\$80,791)** for the purpose of purchasing a new truck for the highway department, to be offset by authorizing the transfer of **forty-two thousand dollars (\$42,000)** from the Truck/Sander Capital Reserve Fund and the remaining balance to come from taxation.

AMENDED ARTICLE 5 **PASSES**

ARTICLE 6: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **five thousand dollars (\$5,000)** for deposit into the Truck/Sander Capital Reserve Fund. (Dec. 31,2013 balance: 42,021.44).

ARTICLE 6 **FAILS**

ARTICLE 7: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **seven thousand, four hundred seventy-five dollars (\$7,475)** for the purpose of purchasing a new sand and salt spreader. This article is contingent of passage of article 5.

ARTICLE 7 **PASSES** as written

ARTICLE 8: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **fifteen thousand dollars (\$15,000)** for the repair of Groton paved roads.

ARTICLE 8 **PASSES** as written

ARTICLE 9: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **five thousand dollars (\$5,000)** for the purpose of repairing and maintaining Province Road.

An amendment to Article 9 is submitted.

AMENDED ARTICLE 9: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **one thousand dollars (\$1,000)** for the purpose of repairing and maintaining Province Road.

To amend ARTICLE 9 **FAILS**

A vote is called on ARTICLE 9 as written.

ARTICLE 9 **PASSES** as written

ARTICLE 10: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **twenty-nine thousand, six hundred fifty dollars (\$29,650)** to construct a fire escape for the second floor of the Town House.

ARTICLE 10 **PASSES** as written

ARTICLE 11: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **three thousand, five hundred dollars (\$3,500)** to purchase and equip a used vehicle to be used by the Police Department.

ARTICLE 11 **PASSES** as written

ARTICLE 12: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **four thousand, six hundred forty-four dollars (\$4,644)** to purchase an extended service protection plan for the backhoe.

ARTICLE 12 **PASSES** as written

ARTICLE 13: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **two hundred dollars (\$200)** to maintain the Town's cemeteries, and to fund this appropriation by withdrawing \$200 from cemetery trust funds.

ARTICLE 13 **PASSES** as written

ARTICLE 14: To see if the Town will vote to establish a Public Works Capital Reserve Fund for the purpose of relocating the Town Highway Department, and to raise and appropriate the sum of **ten thousand dollars (\$10,000)** to be placed in this fund, and to further appoint the Select Board as agents to expend from the fund.

ARTICLE 14 **PASSES** as written

ARTICLE 15: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **six thousand, five hundred dollars (\$6,500)** for deposit into the Assessing Revaluation Capital Reserve Fund. (Dec. 31, 2013 balance: \$13,003.67)

ARTICLE 15 **PASSES** as written

ARTICLE 16: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **five thousand dollars (\$5,000)** for deposit into the Police Cruiser Capital Reserve Fund. (Dec. 31, 2013 balance: \$16,032.41)

An amendment to ARTICLE 16 is submitted:

AMENDED ARTICLE 16: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **two thousand dollars (\$2,000)** for deposit into the Police Cruiser Capital Reserve Fund. (Dec. 31, 2013 balance: \$16,032.41).

To amend ARTICLE 16 **FAILS**.

A vote is called on Article 16 as written

ARTICLE 16 **PASSES** as written

ARTICLE 17: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **five thousand dollars (\$5,000)** for deposit into the Heavy Equipment Capital Reserve Fund. (Dec. 31, 2013 balance: \$29,167.07)

ARTICLE 17 **PASSES** as written

ARTICLE 18: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **five thousand dollars (\$5,000)** for deposit into the Disaster Relief Capital Reserve Fund. (Dec. 31, 2013 balance: \$58,029.22)

ARTICLE 18 **PASSES** as written

ARTICLE 19: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **five thousand dollars (\$5,000)** for deposit into the Atwell/Orange Brook Bridge Replacement Capital Reserve Fund. (Dec. 31, 2013 balance: \$41,006.00)

An amendment to ARTICLE 19 is submitted.

AMENDED ARTICLE 19: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **one thousand dollars (\$1,000)** for deposit into the Atwell/Orange Brook Bridge Replacement Capital Reserve Fund. (Dec. 31, 2013 balance: \$41,006.00)

To amend ARTICLE 19 **FAILS**.

A vote is called on Article 19 as written

ARTICLE 19 **PASSES** as written

ARTICLE 20: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **five thousand dollars (\$5,000)** for deposit into the Perambulation Non Capital Reserve Fund. (Dec. 31, 2013 balance: \$14,820.73)

ARTICLE 20 **PASSES** as written

ARTICLE 21: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **five thousand dollars (\$5,000)** for deposit into the Town House Capital Reserve Fund. (Dec. 31, 2013 balance: \$18,072.98)

An amendment to ARTICLE 21 is submitted.

AMENDED ARTICLE 21: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **two thousand dollars (\$2,000)** for deposit into the Town House Capital Reserve Fund. (Dec. 31, 2013 balance: \$18,072.98)

To amended ARTICLE 21 **PASSES**

A vote is called on amended Article 21

AMENED ARTICLE 21 **PASSES**

ARTICLE 22: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **five thousand dollars (\$5,000)** for deposit into the Fire & Equipment Capital Reserve Fund. (Dec. 31, 2013 balance: \$55,797.92)

An amendment to ARTICLE 22 is submitted.

AMENDED ARTICLE 22: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **zero dollars (\$0.00)** for deposit into the Fire & Equipment Capital Reserve Fund. (Dec. 31, 2013 balance: \$55,797.92)

To amend ARTICLE 22 **PASSES**

A vote is called on amended Article 22

AMENDED ARTICLE 22 **PASSES**

ARTICLE 23: Shall the Town adopt the provisions of RSA 72:37-b, Exemption for the Disabled from property tax, based on assessed value for qualified taxpayers to be \$15,000. To qualify the person must have been a New Hampshire resident for at least five (5) years, own the real estate individually or jointly, or if the real estate is owned by such person's spouse, then must have been married for at least five (5) consecutive years. In addition, the taxpayer must have a net income of not more than \$20,000 or if married, a

combined net income of not more than \$30,000, and own net assets not in excess of \$40,000 or if married, combined net assets not in excess of \$55,000 excluding the value of the person's residence.

ARTICLE 23 **PASSES** as written

ARTICLE 24: Shall we modify the elderly exemption from property tax in the town of Groton, based on assessed value, for qualified taxpayers, to be as follows: for a person 65 years of age up to 75 years, \$20,000; for a person 75 years of age up to 80 years, \$35,000; for a person 80 years of age and older, \$50,000. To qualify, the person must have been a New Hampshire resident for at least three (3) consecutive years, own the real estate individually or jointly, or if the real estate is owned by such person's spouse, they must have been married to each other for at least five (5) consecutive years. In addition, the taxpayer must have a net income of not more than \$20,000 or, if married, a combined net income of not more than \$30,000; and own net assets not in excess of \$40,000 or, if married, combined net assets not in excess of \$55,000 excluding the value of the person's residence.

ARTICLE 24 **PASSES** as written

ARTICLE 25: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **eight hundred fifty dollars (\$850)** for support of the Groton Historical Society.

ARTICLE 25 **PASSES** as written

ARTICLE 26: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **five hundred dollars (\$500)** for support of the Newfound Lake Region Association (NLRA).

ARTICLE 26 **PASSES** as written

ARTICLE 27: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the selectmen to dispose of the following tax deeded property using the services of a real estate broker to market such property rather than disposing of the property by public auction or sealed bid:

67 River Road	Map 1 Lot 92
Dodge Road	Map 6 Lot 87
Dodge Road	Map 6 Lot 88
856 & 858 North Groton Road	Map 7 Lot 34

ARTICLE 27 **PASSES** as written

ARTICLE 28: To see if the Town will vote to discontinue the Old Home Day Expendable Trust Fund created in 2008. Said funds, with accumulated interest to date of withdrawal, are to be transferred to the Town's general fund. (Dec. 31, 2013 balance: \$1,061.56)

ARTICLE 28 **PASSES** as written

ARTICLE 29: To see if the Town will vote to establish an Old Home Day Revolving Fund and to further raise and appropriate the sum of **one thousand, sixty-two dollars (\$1,062)** to be placed in this account by authorizing the transfer of \$1,062 from the unreserved fund balance as of December 31, 2013, and to further appoint the Select Board as agents to expend from this fund. Said sum represents the balance of the Old Home Day Expendable Trust Fund as of December 31, 2013.

ARTICLE 29 **PASSES** as written

ARTICLE 30: To see if the Town will vote to ratify the action taken at the 2004 Town Meeting authorizing the change of purpose of the Playground Expendable Trust Fund to the Groton Recreation Capital Reserve Fund.

ARTICLE 30 **PASSES** as written

ARTICLE 31: By petition, the undersigned eligible voters of the town of Groton, NH to see if the town will vote to urge:

That the New Hampshire State Legislature join nearly 500 municipalities and 16 other states, including all other New England states, in calling upon congress to move forward a constitutional amendment that: 1) guarantees the right of our elected representatives and of the American people to safeguard fair elections through authority to regulate political spending, and 2) clarifies that constitutional rights were established for people, not corporations.

That the New Hampshire Congressional delegation support such a constitutional amendment.

That the New Hampshire State Legislature support such an amendment once it is approved by Congress and sent to the State for ratification.

And furthermore, that this Town Meeting vote be a record that We the People want Congress and the NH State legislature to:

- Institute full, effective and immediate electronic disclosure of all election-related spending by any individual, group, corporation, party or institution.
- Provide for fair, nonpartisan and vigorous enforcement of existing campaign laws and regulations by federal and state agencies.
- Enact an absolute ban on campaign contributions by foreign governments, foreign agencies, foreign corporations or their subsidiaries and employees in the US who are not US citizens.

ARTICLE 31 **PASSES** as written

ARTICLE 32: Whereas: A road of historic significance completed in August 1771, so the Governor of the Province of New Hampshire could travel from Wolfeboro to Dartmouth College for commencement exercises.

Whereas: The last nearly pristine rural section lies in Groton, NH known as Province Road.

To be resolved: We the Petitioners of Groton NH Petition the board of Selectmen to include a Warrant Article to be presented to the town at the 2014 town meeting.

The purpose: to designate Province Road a Scenic Road according to RSA 231:157

A vote is called on Article 32 as written

ARTICLE 32 **FAILS** 16 yes 21 no

ARTICLE 33: To see if the Town will vote to transact any other business that may legally come before the Town.

There was a motion made and seconded to adjourn the Town Meeting.

Motion **PASSES** and the meeting adjourned 2:30PM.

This is a true attest of warrant and the Groton Town Meeting on the 15th day of March 2014.

Laura J. Hauser, Groton Town Clerk