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EYE ON NORTH BERWICK

The Newsletter
of the
Town of North Berwick
Volume 19 • Issue 2
Town Meeting 2016
www.townofnorthberwick.org

TOWN MANAGER COLUMN

This year's budget preparation started back in November of 2015 when all departments, committees and outside agencies were asked to submit their budget requests for the ensuing fiscal year with the goal of a flat or reduced budget. As with every year, we have continued to scrutinize every cost of town government in an effort to reduce the costs of Town government.

The Board of Selectmen and Budget Committee are recommending a budget that is increased from the previous year. They are aware of the difficulty placed on residents with increased tax burden so they have worked diligently to contain costs while maintaining service levels that citizens demand. To reduce the impact on the tax rate, the Selectmen and Budget Committee are recommending utilization of undesignated fund balance and designated fund balance. On the positive side, the Town expects to see additional tax revenue from real estate taxes, excise taxes and the BE/TE program to assist in offsetting the increase in the amount of taxation dollars needed for the budget.

There are many increases to costs which are outlined in the pages of this newsletter including the replacement of the Code Enforcement Officer due to his resignation, the increase in EMT/Paramedic staffing in the Rescue Squad, Capital Improvement costs, hydrant rental, salary and benefit costs.

As a result, the total budget being recommended is \$4,243,843.00 or a 5.86% INCREASE from last year. Department heads made a huge effort to contain all costs at last year's levels while continuing the range of services provided by the Town, however, continued increase in costs

and services does not permit the town to decrease the budget for the ensuing year to provide the level of services citizens demand. This has resulted in the operations side of the budget increasing by 3.41% from last year. The Capital Improvement side of the budget has to a 20.47% increase however, many of the planned capital projects have reserve funds saved over that past few years that will be utilized.

Also on this year's ballot are eight questions to amend the Zoning Ordinance, Electrical Ordinance and Planning Board Ordinance. The Planning Board and the Board of Selectmen have been reviewing the ordinances and Comprehensive Plan and have recommended certain amendments to streamline and clarify the ordinances. Although the proposed changes are lengthy, both the Planning Board and the Board of Selectmen are unanimously supporting the amendments presented to the voters as they represent important changes that are needed. I encourage all citizens to review the proposed changes and decide whether these are in the best interest of the town as a whole. If you believe that it is, then vote YES. If you believe that this is not the best path for North Berwick, vote NO. Either way, these are important issues that should be decided by the entire town and all are encouraged to vote on Town Meeting day.

There are also contests for almost every elected office in the Town. The town clerk will hold a candidates night prior to Town Meeting so that citizens can meet the candidates and make an informed decision on their desired candidate for each office.

I encourage all citizens to review the newsletter to understand the issues that you will be asked to vote on and vote in the best interest of the Town and quality of life that

we enjoy. *Dwayne*

Town Meeting Highlights: Morning Session – Referendum Questions and Elections



This year, the Town will open the polls for the morning session referendum questions at 8:00 am with polls closing at 1:00 pm. If you cannot vote during this time frame, you are encouraged to get an absentee ballot from the Town Clerk so that you have the opportunity to have your vote counted. Absentee Ballots can be obtained by contacting Chris at 676-3353 x 1. The last day to vote via absentee ballot is Wednesday March 30, 2016.

Please remember that you can bring this newsletter in to assist you in your voting.

All the proposed changes can be obtained at the Town Office or on the town's website: www.townofnorthberwick.org.

THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN AND PLANNING BOARD UNANIMOUSLY RECOMMEND THE APPROVAL OF ALL THE REFERENDUM QUESTIONS.

Note: Strike through language to be removed from the ordinance and bold/underline language to be added to the ordinance.

Question #1: Shall an ordinance entitled, “An Ordinance Amending the North Berwick Electrical Ordinance” be enacted?

An ordinance of the Town of North Berwick, adopting the ~~1999 edition~~ **“current State of Maine adopted”** of the National Electrical Code administrative provisions, regulating and controlling the design, construction, quality of materials, erection, installation, alteration, repair, location, relocation, replacement, addition to, use or maintenance of electrical systems in the Town of North Berwick, providing for the issuance of permits and collection of fees.

SECTION 1. That **a compilation of** certain documents, ~~three (3)~~ **one 1** copy of which ~~are~~ **is** on file in the office of the ~~Code Enforcement Officer~~ **Town Clerk**, being marked and designated as the North Berwick Electrical Ordinance, ~~is~~ **is** hereby adopted as the code of the Town of North Berwick for regulating the design, construction, quality of materials, erection, installation, alteration, repair, location, relocation, replacement, addition to, use or maintenance of electrical systems in the Town of North Berwick and providing for the issuance of permits and the collection of fees therefor; and **that each** all of the regulations, provisions, conditions and terms of such National Electrical Code --- Administrative Provisions, ~~1999 edition~~, published by the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), on file in the office of the ~~Code Enforcement Officer~~ **Town Clerk**, are hereby ~~referred to~~ incorporated by reference herein, ~~adopted~~ and made a part hereof as if fully set out in this ordinance.

SECTION 2. That if any section, subsection, sentence, clause or phrase of this ordinance is, for any reason held to be unconstitutional, **illegal or invalid for any reason whatsoever**, such decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this ordinance. ~~The People of North Berwick hereby declare that they would have passed this ordinance, and each section, subsection, clause or phrase thereof, irrespective of the fact that any one or more sections, subsections, sentences, clauses and phrases be declared unconstitutional.~~

SECTION 3. That no electrical permit shall be issued without payment of a fee in accordance with the current fee schedule on file with the Town Clerk, and that the penalty/penalties for violating the above-amended North Berwick Electrical Ordinance, so called, shall be as follows:

Any person, firm, or corporation who violates any of the provisions of this Ordinance or Code, shall be subject to the minimum and maximum penalties outlined in 30-A MRSA Section 4452 for each day the violation continues after notification. The actual penalty amounts in each case shall be set by the Municipal Officers in accordance with the requirements of 30-A MRSA Section 4452.

SECTION ~~3~~ 4. That this ordinance and the rules, regulations, provisions, requirements, orders and matters established and adopted hereby shall take effect and be in full force and effect on ~~July 1, 2001~~. **July 1, 2016**

Intent: The purpose of this revision is to maintain compliance with the State of Maine approved Codes by adopting the National Electrical Code provisions regulating electrical systems.

Question #2: Shall an ordinance entitled, “An Ordinance Amending Section 5.1.9 of the Zoning Ordinance to state the performance standards and requirements for Explosive Materials” be enacted?

Amend Article 5.1.9 Explosive Materials

Proposed to Read:

5.1.9 Explosive Materials

No highly flammable or explosive liquids, solids, or gases shall be stored in bulk above ground, unless they are located at least seventy- five (75) feet from any lot line, Town way or interior roadway. Underground storage tanks for highly flammable or explosive materials shall be set back at least 75 feet from every property line. The above requirements shall not apply to containers used for storage of Liquefied Petroleum Gas or Compressed or Liquefied Natural Gas that have been installed in compliance with all standards and rules adopted by the Maine Fuel Board.

Intent: Currently propane tanks of 250 gallons or greater are considered bulk storage. This amendment brings the Town's Zoning Ordinance into conformity with the State of Maine Fuel Board's adopted standards and rules for Liquefied Petroleum Gas or Compressed or Liquefied Natural Gas.

Question #3: Shall an ordinance entitled, “An Ordinance Amending the Land Use Table 4.3 of the Zoning Ordinance to require a Code Enforcement Officer Permit (CEO) instead of a Conditional Use (CU) Permit for certain uses within the specified Zoning Districts: Shoreland Limited Residential District - Single Family Residence; Shoreland Limited Residential District - Structures Accessory to uses which are similar to permitted uses; Resource Protection District - Structures accessory to permitted uses; Shoreland Stream District - Structures accessory to permitted uses; and Shoreland General District - Structures accessory to permitted uses” be enacted?

Village Center	Village A,B	Resrce protect	Shoreld Lim.Res	Shoreld Stream	Shoreld General	Residen Dists.	Farm/ Forest	Commc'l Dist.	Commc'l II	Indust. Dist.
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RESIDENTIAL Single family dwelling	YES	YES	NO	CU CEO	NO	CU	YES(1)	YES(1)	CU	YES	NO
Structures accessory to permitted uses	YES	YES	CU CEO	YES CEO	CU CEO	CU CEO	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
Structures accessory to uses which are similar to permitted uses	CU	CU	CU	CU CEO	CU	CU	CU	YES	YES	YES	YES

Intent: This amendment is to make the Code Enforcement Officer the permitting authority over certain types of use applications where currently a Conditional Use permit through the Planning Board is required. This amendment leaves unchanged the authority of the Code Enforcement Officer, in his or her discretion, Planning Board review of permit applications under section 6.9 of the Zoning Ordinance.

Question #4: Shall an ordinance entitled, “An Ordinance Amending the Land Use Table 4.3 of the Zoning Ordinance to require a Conditional Use (CU) Permit for Banks and Pharmacies (with or without drive through) in the Village Center District, Shoreland General District, Commercial District, Commercial II District and Industrial District” be enacted?

Village Center	Village A,B	Resrce protect	Shoreld Lim.Res	Shoreld Stream	Shoreld General	Residen Dists.	Farm/ Forest	Commc'l Dist.	Commc'l II	Indust. Dist.
Banks and Pharmacies (with or without drive through)	CU	NO	NO	NO	CU	NO	NO	CU	CU	CU

Intent: To allow for Banks and Pharmacies to be a Conditional Use (CU) in the specified districts and to allow them with or without a drive through.

Question #5: Shall an ordinance entitled, “An Ordinance Amending Section 4.2.j and Land Use Table 4.3 of the Zoning Ordinance to require a Conditional Use (CU) Permit for Uses Bordering Town Lines not currently permitted in the Town of North Berwick meeting the established performance requirements” be enacted?

Proposed to Read:

4.2.j. Uses Bordering Town Lines: The Planning Board shall be authorized, in all zones with the exception of Aquifer Protection Zone A and Aquifer Protection Zone B, to allow for the expansion of the use of a bordering property into North Berwick not currently permitted in the North Berwick Zoning District through the conditional use process as long as the following conditions are met:

1. The use cannot expand more than 250’ along the existing roadway frontage.
2. The use cannot expand by more than 50%.
2. The use must have a 100’ vegetated buffer.
3. The use cannot be closer than 250’ from an existing residence.

Uses Bordering
Town Lines

Village Center	Village A,B	Resrce protect	Shore'd Lim.Res	Shore'd Stream	Shore'd General	Residen Dists.	Farm/ Forest	Comme'l Dist.	Comme'l II	Indust. Dist.
NO	CU	CU	NO	NO	CU	CU	CU	NO	CU	CU

Intent: This amendment allows, in all zones except the Aquifer Protection Zone A and the Aquifer Protection Zone B, for the expansion of bordering uses into North Berwick when the existing conforming use in a neighboring community is a non-conforming use in North Berwick. The non-conforming use is to be reviewed by the Planning Board as a conditional use and must meet the performance standards established.

Question #6: Shall an ordinance entitled, “An Ordinance Amending Sections 6.1 and 6.2 of the Zoning Ordinance to require a demolition permit” be enacted?

Amend Section 6.1 - Building or Use Permit

Proposed to Read

6.1.8. Demolition permit required. A demolition permit shall be required before any person who proceeds with any of the following work:

- (a) The demolition or removal of 50 percent or more of the floor area of any structure (or structures on the same lot) in any residential or business district; or
- (b) The demolition or removal of 50 percent or more of the structural elements of the walls or facade of a structure (or structures on the same lot) facing a street in any residential or business district,

6.1.8.1. Demolition work. No part of any demolition work for which a permit is required under this Ordinance shall be commenced unless and until:

- (a) A demolition permit is applied for and issued in the name of the owner and/or applicant in accordance with this Ordinance and has not expired; and
- (b) Unless the code official shall issue a demolition permit pursuant to Section 6.1.8.4, a building permit is issued by the code official for the proposed new structure or improvements to the existing structure.

6.1.8.2. Building permit. No building permit that contemplates demolition work for which a demolition permit is required pursuant to this Ordinance shall be applied for or accepted by the code official unless and until:

- (a) A demolition permit shall be applied for, approved and issued in the name of the owner and/or applicant in accordance with this Ordinance;
- (b) All required fees shall have been paid by the owner or applicant;

6.1.8.3 Emergency permit. A demolition permit may be issued by the code official without compliance with Sections 17-14 through 17-21 upon a determination by the code official that the building or structure in question presents a threat to public safety.

6.1.8.4. Permit application. All applications for demolition permits shall be submitted in accordance with this section No demolition permit application shall be accepted for processing unless it is complete and is accompanied by all applicable fees. Other information and documentation as the code official may determine to be reasonably necessary to process the application in accordance with the provisions of this Ordinance may be required.

6.1.8.5. Expiration of permit. Unless the demolition work authorized by a demolition permit shall have commenced in accordance with such permit and this Ordinance prior to the expiration of such permit, a demolition permit issued pursuant to this Ordinance shall expire six months after its issuance.

Amend Section 6.2

Proposed to Read:

6.2 Fee

No building, use or demolition permit shall be issued without payment of a fee in accordance with the current fee on file with the Town Clerk.

Intent: To require a demolition permit for the removal of a structure in the Town of North Berwick in order to keep accurate record of properties within the town.

Question #7: Shall an ordinance entitled, “An Ordinance Adding a new section 1.5.7 and Amending Sections 3.2, 5.2.6, 6.5.1 and 6.5.2 of the Zoning Ordinance to amend the sign requirements” be enacted?

Proposed To Read

1.5 GENERAL

1.5.7. Substitution Clause. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Ordinance, any non-commercial copy may be substituted, in whole or in part, for any commercial copy on any lawfully existing sign or any sign permitted by this Ordinance. The purpose of this provision is to prevent any inadvertent favoring of commercial speech over non-commercial speech.

3.2 Definitions

In this Ordinance the following terms shall have the following meanings unless a contrary meaning is required by the context or is specifically prescribed.

Billboard: a sign, structure or surface ~~larger than thirty-two (32) square feet~~, which is available for advertising purposes for goods or services **that are not sold, manufactured or distributed on or from the premises on which the sign is located (off-premise sign).**

Sign: any work, name, identification, description, emblem, insignia, symbol, banner, pennant, trade flag, or representation which is affixed to, painted or displayed upon a building, structure, post or tree, **or other outdoor surface** and which is exposed in whole or in part, to public view, and which is designed to **direct attention to the sign face or** convey a message ~~relating to any object, product, place, activity, person, business, service, institution, facility, organization, entertainment or amusement available either on the lot where the sign appears or in some other location.~~

Temporary Sign: a sign that is not permanently attached to a building, structure, or mounted in the ground and designed to be transported, or rolled by means of wheels. Temporary signs shall include signs that are manufactured to stand as an “A” or “T” frame when displayed and self supporting double paneled signs that are connected with panels which are not parallel. **Temporary signs include banners and feather flag signs.** Temporary sign shall also be known as a Portable Sign.

Traveled Edge: the fog line (white line) painted on a roadway or, if no fog line exists, the edge of the pavement of the roadway.

5.2.6 Signs and Billboards

The following requirements shall apply to new signs in all Districts where such signs are permitted:

a. General:

~~1. Billboards, and neon or gas-filled tubular signs (where such tubes are visible),~~ **The following types of signs shall be prohibited in all Districts: The following provisions shall apply only new signs in all Districts where permitted, unless stated otherwise: (i) billboards; (ii) neon or gas-filled tubular signs (where such tubes are visible); (iii) signs placed on utility poles; (iv) flashing, moving or animated signs; and (v) mobile signs, such as those mounted on a movable chassis, with or without wheels.**

b. Size, Location and Illumination

~~4. 2.~~ No sign shall be erected **in or** adjacent to any public way **or sidewalk** in such a manner as to obstruct clear and free vision, or where, by reason of its position, shape, color, illumination or ~~wording~~ **other design feature**, the sign may interfere with, obstruct the view of, or be confused with any authorized traffic sign, signal or device or otherwise **interfere with or** constitute a hazard to pedestrian or vehicular traffic.

b. Permanent Signs

~~2. Illumination shall be conducted in such a manner as to deflect light away from residential properties and public roads.~~

~~3~~ **1. No permanent sign shall exceed fifty (50) square feet in surface area, including the surface area of all informational sides. The total on-premise permanent signage shall be limited to sixty (60) square feet of surface area per land use, including all informational sides.**

~~4. No commercial, industrial, institutional, public or semipublic land use may display more than 60 square feet of signs in total.~~

~~5~~ **2. No permanent sign shall be located within fifteen (15) feet of the traveled edge of any travel way or fifteen feet of any lot line.**

~~6~~ **3. Free-standing permanent signs (not attached to buildings) shall be attached to permanent posts.**

~~7~~ **4. The maximum height of a free-standing permanent sign (not attached to a building) shall be fifteen (15) feet above ground grade to the topmost point.**

~~8~~ **5. Permanent signs shall not be mounted on roofs or extend above the roof line (unless mounted on a parapet wall which extends above roof line).**

~~9~~ **6. Permanent signs may be illuminated only in such a manner as to deflect light away from residential properties and public roads. Steady white light shall be required on any illuminated signs to be illuminated. Signs which are internally lit are prohibited. When signs are to be externally illuminated, they such signs may be any color. No sign shall be permitted to produce a strong, dazzling light or reflection of that light beyond its lot lines onto adjacent properties, or onto any town way so as to impair the vision of the driver of any vehicle upon that town way. All such activities shall comply with applicable Federal and State regulations.**

~~10. Flashing, moving, or animated signs shall be prohibited.~~

~~11. Strings of light bulbs, pennants, propellers, etc. and the like shall not be permitted, except as part of a holiday celebration.~~

~~12~~ **7. Permanent signs shall be placed only on the same lot as the use or activity which they are advertising, except that strictly "official business directional" signs and "approach signs" may be permitted to be located "off- premises" provided they conform the requirements of 23 M.R.S.A. §§ 1909-1912-A (directional signs) and 1914(10) (approach signs) (2016) and applicable Maine D.O.T. regulations, and off-premises name signs are allowed in the Resource Protection, Stream Protection and Limited Residential Districts provided such signs do not exceed two (2) signs per premises and six (6) square feet in surface area, including the surface area of all informational sides.**

~~13~~ **8.** Home occupation signs **relating to goods or services rendered on the premises** may be up to six (6) square feet in **surface** area including **the surface area of** all informational sides, ~~relating to goods or services rendered on the premises.~~

c. Temporary Signs

~~14.~~ Except as provided below, a ~~temporary sign, not exceeding sixteen (16) square feet in surface area, including the surface area of all informational sides of such sign, is~~ **are** permitted in any zoning district, **subject to the following requirements:**

- 1. No temporary sign shall exceed twenty-four (24) square feet in surface area, including the surface area of all informational sides. The total on-premise temporary signage shall be limited to fifty (50) square feet of surface area, including all informational sides, at any given time.**
- 2. The maximum height of a temporary sign shall be fifteen (15) feet above ground grade to the topmost point.**
- 3. No temporary sign may be located within eight (8) feet of the traveled edge of a travel way or within five (5) feet of the paved edge of a sidewalk.**
- 4. No temporary sign may be displayed for more than six (6) weeks prior to any event bringing about its use, except that no temporary commercial sign advertising goods or services may be displayed for more than two (2) weeks prior to such event, and shall be removed forthwith after the event but in no case later than one (1) week after the sign has fulfilled its function.**

~~15.~~ A construction sign, not exceeding thirty two (32) square feet in surface area, including all informational sides of both sides of such sign, is permitted in any zoning district on the property being developed. Such sign shall be removed within fourteen days (14) days after it has fulfilled its function.

~~16.~~ One temporary real estate sign not exceeding ten (10) square feet in size including all informational sides, counting the surface area of both sides of such sign is permitted in any zoning district on each piece of property being sold, leased or developed. Such sign shall be removed within fourteen days after it has fulfilled its function or the property has been sold. Note: Setbacks for temporary real estate signs shall be 15' from travel way.

~~17.~~ A temporary political campaign sign, not exceeding thirty two (32) square feet in surface area, including all informational sides shall be permitted in any district. Such sign shall be removed within five (5) days after the election. Temporary political campaign signs shall not be placed in a manner as to obstruct clear and free vision.

~~18.~~ Temporary signs for garage sales, yard sales, or barn sales, shall be permitted provided such signs do not exceed four (4) square feet in area including all informational sides and are not higher than three (3) feet above ground grade within twenty five (25) feet of any road intersection, 8' from travel way and remain posted a maximum of five (5) days per event with a maximum of three (3) events per year. Temporary signs shall not be placed in a manner as to obstruct clear and free vision.

~~19.~~ Temporary or portable signs shall be setback at minimum behind sidewalks. If sidewalk is not present the portable sign shall be setback at least eight feet (8'-0") from the travel way. Sign shall not be placed in a manner as to obstruct clear and free vision.

~~20.~~ Temporary or portable signs shall be maintained in good repair.

~~21.~~ Non-commercial community events Temporary signs up to 12 square feet in area, be allowed for up to 30 days.

~~22.~~ Temporary Seasonal sponsor signs up to 12 square feet in area shall be allowed at Town recreational facilities.

~~23.~~ Temporary Season long event signs must be specifically permitted by the Code Enforcement Officer, and be removed within 5 days after completion of the event for which the permit is issued.

~~24. No signs shall be placed on Utility Poles.~~

~~e. Shoreland Districts Standards~~

~~These standards are in addition to all performance standards of the underlying districts. Where these standards are in conflict with any underlying standards, the more strict shall prevail. The following provisions shall govern the use of signs in the Resource Protection, Stream Protection, and Limited Residential:~~

- ~~1. Signs relating to goods and services sold on the premises shall be allowed, provided that such signs shall not exceed six (6) square feet in area including all informational sides and shall not exceed one (1) sign per premise. Signs relating to goods or services not sold or rendered on the premises shall be prohibited.~~
- ~~2. Name signs are allowed, provided such signs shall not exceed two (2) signs per premises, and shall not exceed six (6) square feet including all informational sides. Residential users may display a single sign not over three (3) square feet including all informational sides relating to the sale, rental, or lease of the premises.~~
- ~~3. Signs relating to trespassing and hunting shall be allowed without restriction as to number provided that no such sign shall exceed two (2) square feet in area.~~
- ~~4. Signs relating to public safety shall be allowed.~~
- ~~5. No sign shall extend higher than fifteen (15) feet above the ground.~~
- ~~6. Signs may be illuminated only by shielded, non-flashing lights.~~

6.5 Sign Permit Requirements

6.5.1 Permanent Signs

All permanent signs ~~erected~~ shall comply with the following permitting requirements:

- a. Written application to the Code Enforcement Officer shall be made for the installation of all permanent signs, ~~unless otherwise specified in this Ordinance.~~
- b. ~~Unless otherwise specified in this Ordinance,~~ ~~it~~ shall be unlawful to erect, construct, reconstruct, alter, paint, repair or change the use of any permanent sign ~~as defined herein~~ without first obtaining a sign permit from the Code Enforcement Officer approving such action.
- c. Such sign permit shall not be required in order to repaint any ~~of the aforesaid~~ existing permanent sign exactly as it was previously and which, at the time of the proposed repainting, conforms in all respects with the provisions of this Ordinance.
- d. Permanent ~~s~~Signs advertising defunct businesses or premises shall be removed by the property owner within three months after the advertised activity ceases.
- e. ~~Mobile signs, such as those mounted on a movable chassis, with or without wheels, shall not be permitted.~~
- f. All permanent signs shall meet the setback requirements of ~~article~~ section 5.2.6. Signs placed closer to roadways than permitted shall be removed and shall not be permitted to be replaced until after 30 days have expired and a new sign permit is obtained from the Code Enforcement Officer.

6.5.2 Temporary Signs

Temporary signs conforming to section 5.2.6.c do not require a permit. Temporary signs not conforming to section 5.2.6.c are considered a violation of this ordinance and are subject to enforcement pursuant to section 6.6 and 6.7 of this Ordinance.

~~a. A temporary or construction sign, not exceeding thirty-two (32) square feet in surface area, including the surface area of both sides of such sign, is permitted in any zoning district on the property being developed. Such sign shall be removed within fourteen days (14) days after it has fulfilled its function.~~

~~b. One temporary real estate sign not exceeding ten (10) square feet in size, counting the surface area of both sides of such sign is permitted in any zoning district on each piece of property being sold, leased or developed. Such sign shall be removed within fourteen days after it has fulfilled its function or the property has been sold. Note: The setback provisions of section 5.2.6(b)5 apply, as do the provisions for removing such sign and applying a penalty period as outlined in section 6.4.1(f).~~

~~c. A temporary political campaign sign, not exceeding thirty-two (32) square feet in surface area, including the surface area of both sides shall be permitted in any district. Such sign shall be removed within five (5) days after the election.~~

~~d. Sign permits shall not be required for temporary signs for garage sales, yard sales, or barn sales, provided such signs do not exceed four (4) square feet in area and are not higher than three (3) feet above ground grade within twenty-five (25) feet of any road intersection and remain posted a maximum of five (5) days per event with a maximum of three (3) events per year.~~

~~e. Temporary signs up to 12 square feet in area, announcing non-commercial community events, shall be allowed for up to 30 days.~~

~~-~~

~~f. Temporary seasonal sponsor signs up to 12 square feet in area shall be allowed at Town recreational facilities.~~

Intent: To amend the Town of North Berwick sign ordinance to ensure compliance with the constitutional requirements under the First Amendment.

Question #8: Shall an ordinance entitled, “Establishment of Planning Board’ be enacted?

1. Establishment. Pursuant to Art. VIII, pt. 2, Section 1 of the Maine Constitution and 30-A M.R.S.A. § 3001, the Town of North Berwick hereby establishes a Planning Board.

2. Appointment.

A. Board members shall be appointed by the municipal officers and sworn by the clerk or other person authorized to administer oaths.

B. The board shall consist of 5 members and 2 associate members.

C. The term of each member and each associate member shall be 3 years, except members and associate members currently serving may continue to do so until the end of the term for which they were appointed without the need to be reappointed or to take a new oath of office. Thereafter, the term for both members and associate members shall be 3 years.

D. When there is a permanent vacancy, the municipal officers shall appoint a person to serve for the unexpired term. A vacancy shall occur upon the resignation or death of any member, or when a member fails to attend four (4) consecutive regular meetings, or fails to attend at least 75% of all meetings during the preceding twelve (12) month period. When a vacancy occurs, the chairperson of the board shall immediately so advise the municipal officers in writing. The board may recommend to the municipal officers that the attendance provision be waived for cause, in which case no vacancy will then exist until the municipal officers disapprove the recommendation. The municipal officers may remove members of the planning board by unanimous vote, for cause, after notice and hearing.

E. A municipal officer may not be a member or associate member.

3. Organization and Rules.

- A. The board shall elect a chairperson and vice chairperson from among its members. The Town shall hire a non-board member to serve as secretary/stenographer. The term of all offices shall be 1 year with eligibility for re-election.
- B. When a member is unable to act because of interest, physical incapacity, absence or any other reason satisfactory to the chairperson, the chairperson shall designate an associate member to sit in that member's place.
- C. An associate member may attend all meetings of the board and participate in its proceedings, but may vote only when he/she has been designated by the Chairman to sit for a member.
- D. Any question of whether a member is disqualified from voting on a particular matter shall be decided by a majority vote of the members except the member who is being challenged.
- E. The chairperson shall call at least one regular meeting of the board each month, provided there is business to conduct. Special meetings may be called at any time by the chairperson or by a majority of the members. Notice of regular, special and emergency meetings shall be given in accordance with the Maine Freedom of Access Act.
- F. No meeting of the board shall be held without a quorum consisting of 3 members or associate members authorized to vote. The board shall act by majority vote of the members present and voting.
- G. The board may adopt rules for transaction of business and the secretary shall keep a record of its resolutions, transactions, correspondence, findings and determinations. All records shall be deemed public and may be inspected at reasonable times.

4. Duties; Powers

- A. The board shall perform such duties and exercise such powers as are provided by ordinance and the laws of the State of Maine.
- B. The board may obtain goods and services necessary to its proper function within the limits of appropriations made for the purpose.

Intent: The purpose of this amendment is to re-establish the Planning Board created under the old statutes and, under home rule authority, to amend the terms of Planning Board members from 5 year terms to 3 year terms.

Town Reports

The Annual Town Report will be available for pickup at the Town Hall, Library and Transfer Station beginning Friday, March 25, 2016. Town Reports will also be available at Town Meeting on Saturday, April 2, 2016.

Candidates Night

**Thursday March 23, 2016 – 6:30 pm - 8:00 pm
North Berwick Community Center**

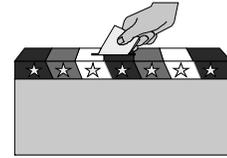
The Town of North Berwick Town Clerk's Office will hold a candidates night on Thursday March 23 at 6:30pm at the North Berwick Community Center on Lebanon Road.

The candidates for elected office will be present to answer any questions regarding their candidacy.

The Public is urged to attend this informational meeting to get to know who is running for local elected office.



Elections



The following positions will be elected this year prior to the annual Town Meeting. The Board of Selectmen encourage all registered voters to get out and vote.

Selectmen, Assessor, and Overseer of the Poor:

For 3 years (vote for two)
Wendy Cowan
Maurice Dolbec
Michael Johnson, Sr.

Water District Trustee:

For 3 years (vote for one)
Nelson Begin

Sanitary District Trustee:

For 3 years (vote for two)
John Randall, Jr.
Jay Randall

Budget Committee Member:

For 3 years (vote for not more than four)
Maurice Dolbec
Beverly Gray
Leo Langelier, Jr.
Cheryl Monkiewicz
Lendell Quint

MSAD #60 School Director:

For 3 years (vote for one)
Rebecca Hopper

Cemetery Trustee:

For 3 years (vote for two)
Dale Clock
Peter Derby

Code Enforcement Office Update

The Town's current Code Enforcement Officer, Jim Marchese, has submitted his letter of resignation. Jim has accepted a Code Enforcement Officer position out of state and will be leaving North Berwick on March 12, 2016. The Town wishes Jim the best in his new position. The Town has begun a search for Jim's replacement and it is anticipated that the position can be filled by May. During the interim time, the Town has made an agreement with the Town of Wells Code Enforcement Office to assist us in the issuance of Building Permits. During this time, The Town of Wells, Town of South Berwick and the Southern Maine Planning and Development Commission will assist the Town in the following manner:

Building Permits: Wells CEO will pick up permit applications on Monday, Wednesday and Fridays and try to have them reviewed and issued within a week. Town Staff will assist in the issuance of the permits.

Building Inspections: Inspections will be performed on Mondays and Fridays. In emergency cases, inspections can be within 24 hrs except weekends.

Office Hours: Wells cannot hold office hours in North Berwick, however, they will answer calls at their Wells office, 646-5187.

Plumbing: Permits will be reviewed, issued and inspected by Deputy Plumbing Inspector, Joe Rousselle, South Berwick CEO, 384- 3300 x111. Town Staff will assist in the issuance of the permits.

Electrical Permits: During the interim time frame, permits will be issued by North Berwick Town Manager and a Master Electrician will need to sign off on the installation or the Town will request the State Electrical Inspector perform the inspections at his availability.

Zoning: The North Berwick Town Manager will handle inquiries regarding Zoning Issues with the assistance of the Town Attorney.

Planning Board: Southern Maine Planning and Development Commission will assist the Planning Board during this interim period

The Town appreciates everyone's cooperation and patience during this interim timeframe.

Afternoon Session

Warrant Article Highlights:



BUDGET COMMITTEE FINANCIAL RECOMMENDATIONS

The Budget Committee has deliberated over the budget requests of the various departments, committees and agencies seeking funding from the Town of North Berwick for the ensuing year. The Budget Committee met on six occasions during the months of February and March and has recommended the FY 2017 budget.

If the Budget Committee recommendations are followed, the total budget will increase by \$234,917.00 or a 5.86% increase, and the amount needed from Taxation to fund the budget will increase by \$103,727.00. Due to expected new valuation, it is anticipated that approval of this budget will not have an impact on the tax rate.

LD #1 Limitations

In January of 2005, the Maine Legislature passed a law which in effect caps the amount of taxes a Town may raise without a referendum vote. As part of every budget year, each Town must determine it's own individual cap pursuant to this legislation to ensure that the Town does not exceed the cap. If the Budget Committee's recommendations are followed at Annual Town Meeting the Town of North Berwick will continue to remain under the State of Maine property tax cap. Below is the analysis of the LD#1 cap on the Town of North Berwick for FY2017:

Town of North Berwick Property Growth Factor Computation - FY2017 (MRSA 5721-A.1.C.)	
FY2016 Real Estate Value	\$498,648,800.00
FY2016 Personal Property Value	\$71,607,600.00
FY2016 Homestead Exemption	\$ 5,340,000
FY2016 BETE Exemption	\$ 55,266,714
TOTAL VALUE FY2016 (April 1, 2015)	\$ 630,863,114
First Time Taxable Property	
Real Estate	\$ 8,033,600
Personal Property	\$ 19,736,800
TOTAL	\$ 27,770,400
Property Growth Factor	4.40%

Town of North Berwick Property Tax Levy Limit Computation FY2017 (MRSA 5721-A.2)			
Growth Limitation Factor (9/30/2015)			2.67%
Property Growth Factor			4.40%
TOTAL			7.07%
FY2016 Municipal Appropriations			
Appropriations Town Meeting April 18, 2015		\$	4,008,926
Available Resources			
Excise Tax		\$	(717,205)
Fund Balance (Surplus)		\$	(202,000)
Des. Surplus		\$	(54,135)
Misc. Fees		\$	(280,825)
State Revenue Sharing		\$	(120,900)
Equipment Fund		\$	(35,420)
State Road Aid		\$	(68,000)
Enterprise Fund		\$	(119,725)
Impact Fees		\$	-
Subtotal		\$	2,410,716
Balance Carried FY15		\$	522,457
Subtotal		\$	2,933,173
Total Property Tax Growth		\$	207,433
Tax Limit Levy		\$	3,140,548
State Revenue Sharing Adjustment		\$	153,645
Total Tax Limit Levy		\$	3,294,193
Total Property Tax Growth		\$	361,020
Budget Committee Recommendations			
Appropriations		\$	4,243,843
Available Resources			
Excise Tax		\$	740,230
Fund Balance (Surplus)		\$	210,450
Des. Surplus		\$	39,250
Misc. Fees		\$	297,555
State Revenue Sharing		\$	142,900
Equipment Fund		\$	118,615
State Road Aid		\$	69,500
Enterprise Fund		\$	110,900
Impact Fees		\$	-
Subtotal		\$	2,514,443
Increase over FY 2016		\$	103,727
Tax Limitation Calculations			
Tax Limit		\$	3,294,193
Balance to be carried		\$	779,750

Proposed Budget Expenditures

Over the past few years, the Town has been successful in reducing the overall municipal budget. Unfortunately, this year additional expenditures and increases in costs will not allow for a further decrease in the budget and will result in a budget increase. In addition to operational increases in costs, there are capital improvement projects that are planned this year that will also increase the budget. The positive side of this budget increase is that the town has set aside funds to cover the costs of most of the Capital Improvement projects, the selectmen and budget committee are also recommending the utilization of undesignated fund balance (surplus) and designated fund balance in an effort to reduce the impact on the tax rate so that the municipal budget does not increase taxes in the next fiscal year.

The overall budget presented is 5.86% higher (\$234,917.00) than last year. The increase in the budget can be seen in the following areas:

Salary and Benefit Costs – The Board of Selectmen have approved a 2% cost of living increase for all employees. Health insurance costs have increased 8.25%. The Maine State retirement system has also increased the level of contribution that the town has to make on its employees and the system will no longer allow the town to utilize its credit for overpayment that was created during the merger of the system a few years ago resulting in a 50% increase in retirement costs. The Selectmen are also proposing to increase the salaries of the full-time front office staff to bring their salaries in line with similar positions in other communities. Even with all these increases, the Town still pays at the lower end of the salary range than most York County towns, has 75-25% insurance sharing with employees for a family insurance plan that was reduced to a high deductible and coinsurance/low premium plan and requires all employees to contribute 7.5% toward retirement costs.

Code Enforcement – The past year has seen the Town hire two Code Enforcement Officers only to see them resign within a short period in the position. The Town is currently searching a replacement full time Code Enforcement Officer. To assist in the recruitment and retaining of a Code Enforcement Officer, the Board of Selectmen have decided to increase the salary range of the position. In speaking with potential candidates, the Town's starting pay for a qualified person was at the low end and in order to attract and retain a person for the position, the Board felt it best to increase the salary range to \$60-65,000.00 a year plus benefits. With increased building activity, the additional permit fees will assist in the funding of the position to offset any tax burden.

Rescue Squad – Over the past three years, the Rescue Squad has been moving toward a 24/7, 2 person per diem crew to staff the Ambulance. This year represents that final phase of this goal and will increase the amount the town spends on ambulance service from approximately \$194,500.00 to approximately \$250,000.00 a year. The overwhelming reason for this move is the lack of volunteers who have EMT and Paramedic licenses. Individuals who obtain these credentials have spent a considerable amount of time, funds and energy to acquire the licenses and continue to have to keep the licenses current with training on a yearly basis. Individuals with this skill set want to be compensated for obtaining and keeping these credentials. As the Town continues to grow and age, the ambulance service is one of the basic necessities for the community. By utilizing per diem employees, the Rescue Squad reduces the overall labor costs because there are no benefits attached to the employee while assuring that the Ambulance can provide lifesaving opportunities without the need to have to call in other ambulance services. North Berwick Rescue utilizes employees who are employed in other full time positions that want to earn extra money by picking up 12 hour shifts for the rescue. The Squad will continue to rely on volunteers for driving the ambulance while having the station staffed with two individuals so that the ambulance can respond in a timely manner without having to rely on other communities ambulance services to respond to emergency calls for service.

Other areas of budget increases include: a 4% increase in operational costs for the Library, due in part to proposed increase in staffing levels, a 3% increase in Hydrant Rental due to a pending water rate increase at the Water District; and a 5% increase in assessing costs due to the contractual obligation of the Town with the Town of South Berwick on the shared assessor.

The operations side of the budget has increased by 3.51% from last year. Department heads made a huge effort to contain all costs at last year's levels while continuing the range of services provided by the Town, however some costs could not be lowered to provide the same level of service taxpayers have stated they desire. The Capital Improvement side of the budget increased 20.47%, however, the town's Capital Improvement Plan had called for a larger increase and the Board of Selectmen pared down the capital costs and many of the Capital costs will be funded by reserves set aside by the town in previous years for the projects. SAD #60 has yet to finalize their budget so it is unknown what impact the school budget will have on the tax rate. York County has not completed their budget as of the printing of this newsletter.

Proposed Budget Revenues

The proposed budget represents an increase in the amount of taxes to be raised in the amount of \$103,727.00 to fund the Municipal portion of the budget. The town is projecting increases to other revenues such as excise tax, due to the stronger economy and people purchasing replacement vehicles. The town is projecting an increase in the amount of taxes collected due in part to increase economic activity, such as the construction of the new Hannaford Supermarket, in the town as well as an increase in building permits over the last year. This increase in taxation revenue is estimated at \$189,000.00. In addition, last year the selectmen were concerned about the coming budget year due to the cuts in previous year and anticipated increase in costs and they increased overlay to compensate for this concern. With the estimated increase in taxable value, this year's proposed budget would not increase the tax rate due to the municipal budget as well as leaving additional taxation revenue to cover increases in the school and county budgets which have yet to be determined.

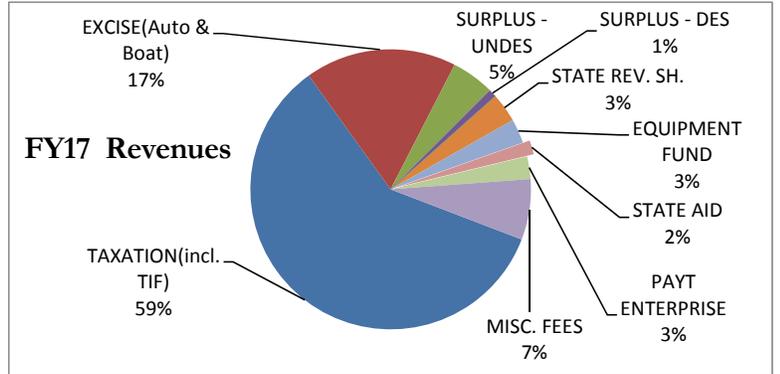
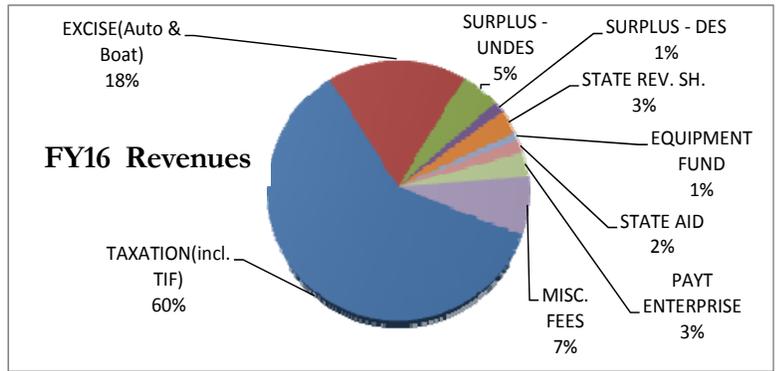
Over the past few years the Town's undesignated fund balance has stabilized at a level of approximately \$2.6 million and that is anticipated to be reduced this year by approximately \$210,450.00 in order to help offset increases in the tax rate. The Fund Balance allows the town to operate without borrowing funds to meet the monthly financial demands, while producing interest earnings that help offset the amount of taxes raised. The town is proposing to utilize undesignated fund balance reserve funds to assist in the purchase of Capital Equipment and Infrastructure. It is also proposed to utilize \$39,250.00 of currently designated reserves to offset various budgets in the coming year. These funds are rolled over from year to year and by utilizing them in the coming year, we can reduce the amount of funds needed from taxation.

In addition, the Town has seen the amount of BETE (Business Equipment Tax Exemption) funds increase significantly over the past year due to the purchase of equipment at Pratt and Whitney. Although the Town cannot tax this property as personal property, the State provides the town with approximately 60% of the lost revenue. This reimbursement is anticipated to increase in the coming fiscal year due to continued equipment purchases and expansions at Pratt and Whitney. While these figures are not available until after May 1, Pratt and Whitney executives have indicated a large increase in equipment and capital purchases this year as they continue their ramp up for the production of the joint strike fighter engine.

Also on the positive side, the State of Maine legislature has protected the reduced State Revenue Sharing for the next fiscal year.

Proposed Revenues:

	<u>FY16</u>	<u>FY17</u>
Taxation	\$2,410,716.00	\$2,514,443.00
State Revenue Sharing	\$120,900.00	\$142,900.00
Excise Tax	\$717,205.00	\$740,230.00
Equipment Fund	\$35,420.00	\$118,615.00
Misc. Fees:	\$280,825.00	\$297,555.00
Road Block Grant:	\$68,000.00	\$69,500.00
Enterprise Fund	\$119,725.00	\$110,900.00
Designated Surplus	\$54,135.00	\$39,250.00
Undesignated Surplus	<u>\$202,000.00</u>	<u>\$210,450.00</u>
<i>TOTAL</i>	<i>\$4,008,926.00</i>	<i>\$4,243,843.00</i>



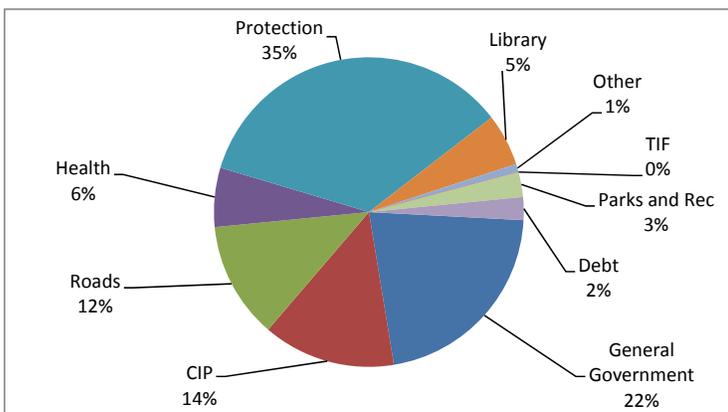
Proposed Expenditures:

Breakdown by Department

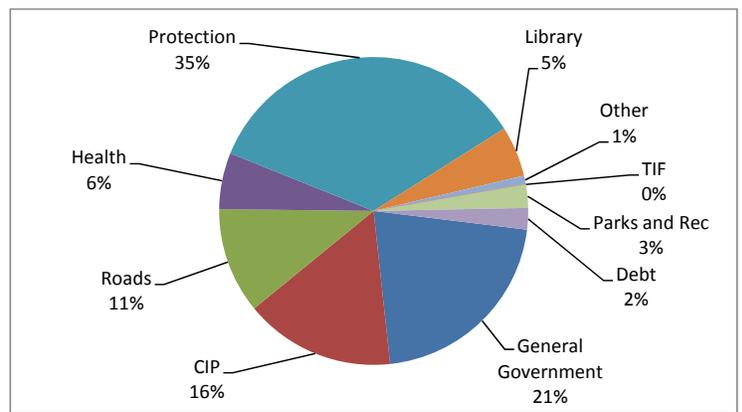
	<u>FY16</u>	<u>FY17</u>
Highway	\$488,205.00	\$471,730.00
Capital Improvements	\$555,420.00	\$669,115.00
General Government	\$864,905.00	\$906,600.00
Protection	\$1,398,942.00	\$1,481,660.00
Library	\$218,000.00	\$225,000.00
Parks and Recreation	\$104,110.00	\$103,585.00
Social Services/Health	\$248,522.00	\$250,680.00
Other	\$34,907.00	\$39,558.00
Debt	<u>\$95,915.00</u>	<u>\$95,915.00</u>
<i>TOTAL</i>	<i>\$4,008,926.00</i>	<i>\$4,243,843.00</i>

Capital Improvement Program Breakdown

	<u>FY16</u>	<u>FY17</u>
Highway	\$424,000.00	\$553,000.00
Parks and Recreation	\$0.00	\$0.00
General Government	\$0.00	\$0.00
Police	34,200.00	\$37,215.00
Rescue	\$0.00	\$0.00
Transfer Station	\$15,000.00	\$0.00
Library	\$0.00	\$0.00
Fire	<u>\$82,220.00</u>	<u>\$78,900.00</u>
<i>TOTAL</i>	<i>\$555,420.00</i>	<i>\$669,115.00</i>



FY16 Expenditures



FY17 Expenditures

FY16 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS

In an effort to keep the town's infrastructure and equipment in good working order and replacing only those items that are essential for operations. The Capital Improvement side of the budget is proposed to increase 20.47%, however, the town's Capital Improvement Plan had called for a larger increase and the Board of Selectmen pared down the capital costs. The Board of Selectmen proposed and the Budget Committee is recommending the following Capital Improvement Budget.

Fire Department: This year there are three CIP projects for the Fire Department:

Pumper: Four years ago the Town authorized the purchase of a new fire pumper to be financed over a ten year period. This is the second payment on the bond for the fire pumper. \$40,400.00



Substation Floor: The Substation Fire Station Floor is in need of an epoxy paint job to seal the concrete. The concrete floor has not been painted since the construction of the building in 1992. The project includes prepping and painting the two bays of the substation floor where the vehicles are located. This will include sandblasting to remove laitance and impurities of existing surface, filling the major spalls in the concrete, and applying a textured epoxy system on the floor. Estimate: \$11,700.00

Tanker: The At Last year's Town Meeting the voters approved the purchase of a tanker that will hold 3,000 gallons of water for utilization in the area of town currently not served by the hydrant system. The Tanker will provide instant water for fires in the more than 66% of the town not serviced by the hydrants. The E-4 engine will be sold to make room for the proposed tanker. The cost of the \$285,000.00 tanker was paid for with a 10 year bond from the Maine Bond Bank as well as reserves that the Town had saved over the past few years. The Town took possession of the tank in February of 2016 and the will be placed in service once driver training has been completed. The bond payment on the tanker is \$26,800.00.



Police Cruiser: This year, the police department is requesting a replacement cruiser. For several years, the Town has purchased Chevy Impalas as our police cruisers, however, Chevy is no longer producing the Impala police package. The Impalas have served us well, however there are a few disadvantages over other police models. Last year we replaced one of the Impalas with the new FORD interceptor SUV and it has proven to be an effective and efficient vehicle for the Police Department. Once again the Police Department is planning on replacing one of the Impalas with a Ford Interceptor SUV.

Many police department have begun to move their fleet of Police Vehicles towards the SUV model which allows for the department to respond to emergencies in all types of weather. Estimated cost - \$37,215.00

Public Works: The Town is proposing to purchase two pieces of equipment to assist in the maintenance of the roads as well as repairing the salt/sand shed roof. The repairs that are planned include:



One Ton: It is planned to replaced the 2003 Ford F450 one ton. This vehicle was scheduled for replacement back in 2012, however, the town completed some repairs to gain some additional life out of the vehicle. The vehicle has had to have additional repairs throughout the winter and it is felt that it would be best to replace the vehicle as it has become unreliable during winter storms. The Town plans to purchase a 2016 F-450 cab and chassis and then have a rear dump body along with a new sander unit to replace the current that is more than 25 years old. – Est. - 85,000.00



Loader: The Town is planning to replace the 1995 Cat Loader with a 2016 Cat Loader. Once again, this piece of equipment was slated to be replaced in 2014, however, repairs were made to the vehicle to extend the life a few more years. It is proposed to lease purchase the \$150,000.00 cost of the new loader over a five year timeframe. The estimated payment over the next five years is \$30,000.00 per year once our trade in value (estimated \$20,000.00) for our current vehicle is figured off the price of a new Loader.

Salt/Sand Shed Roof: The Town constructed the salt and sand shed back in 1995 as part of a State project to protect winter salt and sand and more importantly to prevent leaching of the materials into groundwater supplies. This has been a great asset to the Town as we have been able to keep our winter salt/sand mixture dry for use during winter storms. The location of our shed is in a high wind area and we have replaced many shingles on the building over the years. In the past year, roof underlayment damage has been found and it has been determined that the best course of action is for the roof to be stripped, the underlayment repaired and then the building completely re-shingled. This is estimated to cost \$33,000.00.



HIGHWAY PROJECTS

FY2016 PROPOSED ROAD CIP

PROJECTS: The overall Road Capital Improvement Budget for this year is proposed to be \$405,000.00. In addition to making the \$113,610.00 payment on the road bond approved four years ago, the following projects are planned to be accomplished during the ensuing fiscal year.

Beech Ridge Road: It is planned to make drainage improvements then shim and overlay the Road from the Noble High School Entrance to the Berwick Town Line. Estimated cost of the project is: \$78,000.00.

Randall Road: It is planned to rebuild approximately 450 feet of Randall Road near the "Corner" which will consist of improved drainage, removal of trees and stumps and then shim and overlay the Road from the "Corner" to the end of the Road. Estimated cost of the project is \$85,000.00.

Diamond Hill Road: The Town will begin the three year road improvement project on Diamond Hill Road. This year the phase will consist of removing the trees and stumps within the right of way, drainage improvements and the installation of the base and sub-base gravel. The estimated cost of this phase is \$128,500.00. The following two phases that will be completed in FY2018 and FY 2019 will consist of the base pavement and surface pavement respectively.

Sidewalk: It is planned to place \$5,000.00 into the sidewalk account for future repairs to the sidewalk network.

Conservation/Agricultural Commission Initiatives

Last year the Board of Selectmen appointed members to the revived Conservation/Agricultural Commission. The Selectmen directed the Commission to look at a few different areas of concern within the Town: conduct research and make recommendations as to the protection, development and use of natural resources in town; 2) review town policy and ordinances with the purpose of making recommendation to promote agriculture in town; and 3) make recommendations to carry out conservation and agricultural implementation strategies outlined in the Comprehensive Plan.

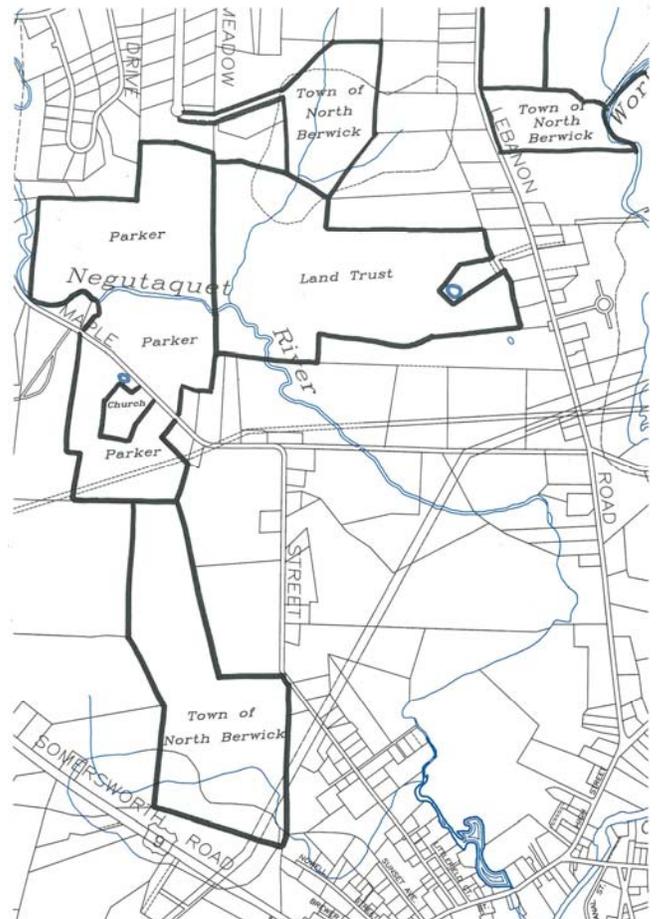
In response to the direction of the Board of Selectmen, the Commission is proposing three articles be acted upon at town meeting. The first article is to designate certain parcels of land as Town Forest. Town Forests are designated properties owned and managed by the Town of North Berwick for public benefit. Uses of Town Forest include but are not limited to; Watershed Protection, Wildlife Habitat, Forest Products, Public Recreation, Outdoor Classrooms, and Neighbor Gathering Places.

The Following town owned lots are so designated as Town Forest:

Map 10 - Lot 12	Map 10 - Lot 14A
Map 1 - Lot 73	Map 7- Lot 3
Map 6 - Lot 21	Map 7- Lot 5
Map 3 - Lot 63-1	Map 7- Lot 6A
Map 3 - Lot 96-15	Map 8 - Lot 1

In the second article, the Commission would like to apply for a Project Canopy Grant to develop a forest management plan for Map 1 Lot 73 which would include public access trails with information signage. The management plan would include active forestry with an emphasis on long term stewardship, wildlife habitat, invasive species control and protection of natural resources. The trail development would be coordinated with the Great Works Regional Land Trust in an effort to create a trail network to include the Land Trust lands that abut this property.

The Land Trust has expressed interest in this project as it could have the ability to create a complex trail system from Lebanon Road to Route 9 near Old County Road. The Land Trust obtained 100 acres in 2012 in which they have developed a trail system called the Negutaquet Conservation Area. In addition, this past year the Land Trust obtained a farmland easement on the Charlie and Majorie Parker Land that abuts the Negutaquet Conservation Area and the Town's parcel of land. The Parker transaction also included a trail easement that connects the Negutaquet Conservation Area to the Town's property identified as Map 1 Lot 73. To accomplish this goal, the Commission is seeking \$5,000.00 in grant match funds.



The Third article relates to promoting agriculture in the Town. The Commission is seeking the support of a Food Sovereignty Resolution which will set forth a framework in which the Town of North Berwick provides citizens with unimpeded access to local food; enhances the local economy by promoting the production and purchase of local agricultural products; protects access to farmer's markets, roadside stands, farm based sales, and direct producer to patron sales; supports the economic viability of local food producers and processors; preserve community social events where local foods are served or sold; and preserves local knowledge and traditional foodways.

Here is the complete language for the Food Sovereignty Resolution:

Resolution to Support Food Sovereignty for the Town of North Berwick, Maine

Whereas, the Town of North Berwick supports the right to produce, process, sell, purchase, and consume local foods, thus promoting self-reliance, the preservation of family farms, and local historic food traditions, and

Whereas, the Town of North Berwick supports family farms, sustainable agricultural practices, and food processing by individuals, families, and non-corporate entities, which offers stability to our rural way of life by enhancing the economic, environmental, and social wealth of our community, and

Whereas, the Town of North Berwick believes that over regulation impedes local food production and constitutes a usurpation of our citizens' right to food of their choice, and

Whereas, the Town of North Berwick supports the basic human right of the people of North Berwick to have access to safe, nutritious, and culturally appropriate food in sufficient quantity to sustain a healthy life with full human dignity, and

Whereas, the Town of North Berwick supports and guarantees the development of local farms and small food production to ensure the concrete realization of this fundamental right, and

Whereas, North Berwick has all the natural resources and the hard-working, independent-spirited people to grow, trap, catch, forage, process, prepare, and distribute enough food to feed our town and strengthen our local economy, and

Whereas, the Town of North Berwick wishes to encourage an economic and legislative environment that promotes food stability within our town by supporting our farmers and citizens in producing and distributing rather than importing food, and

Whereas, the Town of North Berwick supports the sustainable care and use of natural resources, especially land, water, seeds, and livestock breeds, and

Whereas, the people who work the land must have the right to practice sustainable management of natural resources, to conserve bio-diversity, and have security of tenure.

Now Therefore, the purpose of the resolution to support Food Sovereignty is to provide citizens with unimpeded access to local food; enhance the local economy by promoting the production and purchase of local agricultural products; protect access to farmer's markets, roadside stands, farm based sales, and direct producer to patron sales; support the economic viability of local food producers and processors; preserve community social events where local foods are served or sold; and preserve local knowledge and traditional foodways.

IMPACT FEE BUDGET

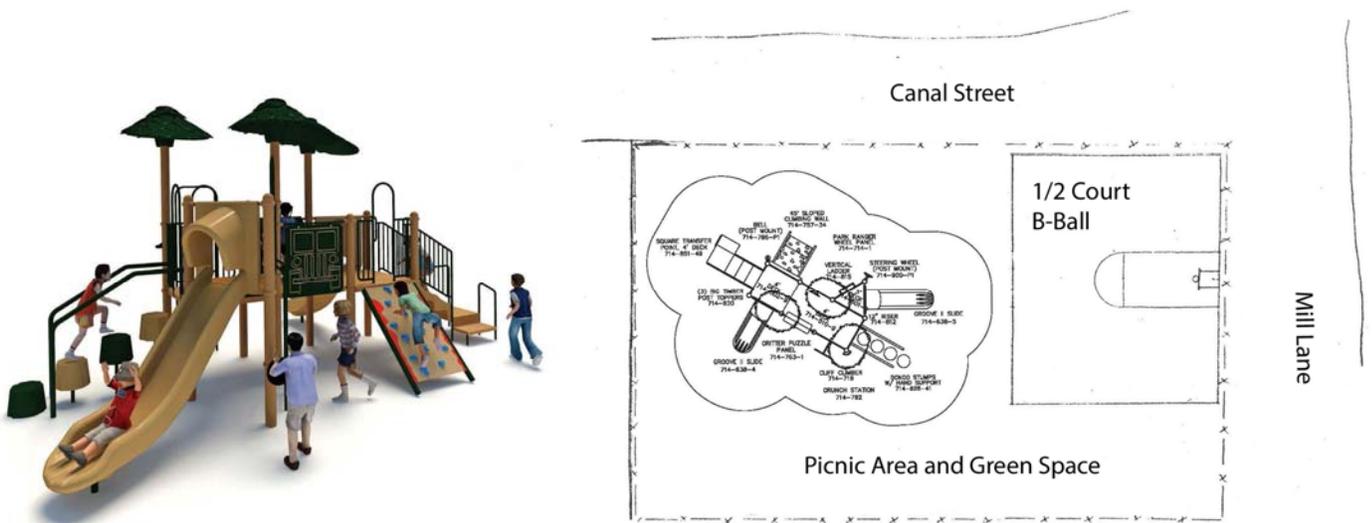
In 2003, the town implemented an Impact Fee System to provide an equitable source of funding for recreation and open space services and facilities. Pursuant to the Impact fee ordinance, \$500.00 is collected for every bedroom built in the town and these funds are divided 2/3 towards recreational projects and 1/3 towards Open Space projects. This year there is two proposals before the town to utilize some of the impact fee funds being held by the Town.

Current Impact Fee Reserves As of 12/31/2015:

Recreation: \$89,868.36

Open Space: \$50,621.64

Canal Street Playground: The Parks and Recreation Commission is proposing a beautification project for the downtown Canal Street Playground Area. The Commission's proposal is to remove the existing chain fence, basketball court and other items currently there and install a NEW 1/2 court basketball area, green space area with picnic tables, and a Playscape Structure for ages 2-12. The entire area will surrounded by a split rail fence. Cost 28,600.00



Community Center Walking Trail & Rebound Wall Project: It is proposed to build a Walking Trail around the Multipurpose Fields at the Community Center. The 1/2 mile trail will be constructed of Stone Dust. A split rail fence will be installed along Lebanon Road to protect walkers on the trail and a new sign will be installed. A marked walking trail will continue around the Soccer field and into the woods to the lookout location. In addition, a rebound wall will be added to the Center for use of Soccer, lacrosse and tennis practice and 5 benches will be added near the playscape area and along the walking trail. Cost - \$35,000.00



NORTH BERWICK SUMMER CAMP

The North Berwick Summer Camp program offers summertime recreational activities for North Berwick youth ages 5-13 years old. The program incorporates team sports, games, crafts, and theme days and weeks. Campers will also go on quality field trips during the week. Camp will take place at the North Berwick Community Center on Lebanon Rd. The North Berwick Recreation Director is on-site most days. The Town has a very qualified staff and all are certified in First Aid/CPR. Resident cost: \$550.00 per child Non-resident \$600.00 per person for the entire 6 weeks, all field trips and a camp t-shirt. Dates: Tuesday, July 5th through Friday, August 12th, 2016 from 9am-3pm. Before and after care is available for an additional fee.. We will guarantee the first 55 spaces and then a wait list is created until we reach 70 campers so that additional costs can be justified.

All you need to secure a spot is a \$25.00 non-refundable deposit.

Don't wait too long!!

For more detailed information on the Summer Camp Program please go to the Town Website at www.townofnorthberwick.org.



Accepting registrations beginning April 1, 2016

Sign-Up Dates:

April 6th 5:30pm-7pm at NB Comm. Ctr.

May 25th 5:30pm-7pm at NB Comm. Ctr.



PARKS AND RECREATION DATES TO REMEMBER

North Berwick Fall Soccer Program



Sign Up Dates:

Wednesday, May 25, 2016 5:30pm to 7:00pm

Wednesday, June 15, 2016 5:30pm to 7:00pm

Monday August 1, 2016 5:30pm to 7:00pm

At the N.B. Community Center

No sign-ups accepted after August 1st to allow time to coordinate the ordering of jerseys, as well as, ordering the equipment and field items required. Thank you for your understanding.



Earth Day Saturday, April 23, 2016

This year we will be having some activities for Earth Day on Saturday, April 23rd, 2016. It may consist of games, activities, crafts, etc. all related to Earth Day. Please dress for messy activities and for outside activities. We are also looking to form some small groups to perform roadside clean-up. Get a group together!

This event and the activities also depend on the amount of snow and/or mud we still have by the date!

More info will be sent home with the children of North Berwick, the town website and facebook when it has been decided. You can also call the Rec. Office.



Easter Event

Saturday, March 26, 2016

Noon - 1:30pm

Community Center

Ages: Pre-k to 3rd grade

Each spring the Easter Bunny hops into North Berwick and hides several eggs for the children at the North Berwick Community Center. He comes the Saturday before Easter Sunday. He hides enough eggs for three age groups of egg seekers, does a meet and greet and has a photo opportunity. The eggs contain candy, trinkets or prize numbers to be redeemed. After opening the eggs, all are welcome to enjoy some refreshments. There will also be a few games to play. We are always looking for folks to bake some goodies for the event and volunteers to help with the other activities. Egg hunts start and Noon sharp followed by other activities. Ages Pre-K, Kind-1st and 2nd -3rd grade egg hunts. We will hold the Easter Egg Hunt rain, shine, snow or mud, so dress accordingly.

Egg hunts start at NOON -- BRING YOUR BASKET!

WANT TO KNOW WHAT IS HAPPENING IN PARKS AND RECREATION THIS YEAR?

Check out the yearly Activity Booklet available at the Town Hall and Community Center. You can also check it out on our website; townofnorthberwick.org under Parks and Rec.

It is full of information about Parks and Recreation activities as well as local non-profit groups in North Berwick.



ADOPT A CEMETERY PROGRAM



The Adopt a Cemetery program is designed to save taxpayers money by not having to hire companies and individuals to maintain the Veteran's cemeteries in the Community. The program is designed where individuals, families or organizations can adopt a cemetery and maintain that cemetery between May and October of every year. State Law dictates that "municipality in which said burying ground is located shall keep in good condition and repair, all graves, headstones, monuments or markers designating the burial place of said Revolutionary soldiers or sailors or soldiers or sailors who served in the United States Army, Navy or Marine Corps in any war and shall keep the grass suitably cut and trimmed on those graves from May 1st to September 30th of each year."

All those interested in this program are asked to send in the form prior to April 15, 2016.

**TOWN OF NORTH BERWICK
2016 ADOPT-A-CEMETERY PROGRAM**

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____ E-mail: _____

Organization (if applicable): _____

I wish to _____ Adopt Cemetery # _____

_____ Willing to have the Town assign a cemetery

Signature: _____

Date: _____

(Map available at the Town Office)

Whitehouse Murray(#4), Frost(#5), Guptill (#7), Grant-Hayes (#9), Libby-Hanson (#12), Dillingham(#14), Stackpole(#15), Brackett(#20), Pray (#21), Hurd(#22), Rogers (#23), Fenderson(#25), Remick(#26), Hurd-Staple(#27), Fernald(#28), Libby(#29), Hanscom-Brackett(#30), Goodwin(#32), Abbott(#33), Nowell(#34), Chadbourne (#37), Nowell(#40), Junkins (#47), Weymouth(#54), Johnson-Nutter(#56), Fernald (#57), Clark(#58), Stillings(#59), Hall(#60), Brackett(#67), Hanscom(#70), Abbott(#73), Staples(#77), Staple-Hurd(#78), Young(#88), Randall(#98), Hubbard(#99), Twombly(#104), Chadbourne(#107), Hill(#109), Hartford-Guptill(#120), Quint(#124), Ford-Goodwin(#129), Allen (#130), Ford (#131), Billings(#136), Ford(#138), Morrill(#143), Grant(#147), Cutts(#155), Weymouth(#159), Hammond(#161), Applebee(#164), Hurd(#166), Nunn-Merrill(#167), Weymouth(#174), Ricker (#181), Abbott (#183), Breton (#186), Chadbourne(#187)and Wood(#188).

TAX CLUB

The Board of Selectmen is pleased to announce the continuation of a Tax Club for the 2017 Fiscal Year. The Tax Club allows property owners to pay their property taxes over the course of the year through a payment book that the Town will issue once an application has been completed and commitment set.

The Tax Club works very similar to a Christmas Club Account in that your tax bill is evenly divided over the year into a number of payments that the property owner chooses so long as all taxes paid have been received by June 15 of the fiscal year. In most cases, the payments would be divided over no more than a ten month period starting in September and ending in June. The start date of September is used due to the setting of

commitment by the Board to determine the actual taxes owed by the property owner. The payments are made without any interest charges accruing so long as the payments are received in accordance with the terms of the agreement. The agreement is written to reflect the property owner's budget. If the property owner does not keep up with the payments then all interest that would have been due must be paid in full.

Any property owner who would like additional information or would like to join the tax club should fill out the following application and drop it off at the Town Office and someone will contact you to finalize your application:



TOWN OF NORTH BERWICK TAX CLUB



RULES AND REGULATIONS: The Tax Club of the Town of North Berwick will be conducted on a payment plan approved by the Town and the individual taxpayer not to exceed 10 months in duration. Taxpayers must make payments according to the Tax Club coupon book issued to them no later than the 15th day of the month in order to qualify for the "No Interest" benefit.

Payments will be made at the Tax Collector's Office, Town of North Berwick, 21 Main Street, North Berwick, Maine 03906 or mailed to the Tax Collector's Office, Town of North Berwick, P.O. Box 422, North Berwick, Maine 03906.

Payments received after the due date will be subject to paying all back interest and fees if applicable.

Name: _____

Telephone: _____

Address: _____

E-mail: _____

Account Number: _____

Map: _____

Lot: _____

I have read the above and do hereby agree to join the Town of North Berwick Tax Club.

Date: _____

Signed: _____

Witnessed: _____

TO BE COMPLETED BY TOWN

Fiscal Year: 20____ Tax Bill: \$ _____

Number of Payments: _____

Amount per Payment: \$ _____

**Annual Town Meeting – Saturday, April 2, 2016
Philip Hussey Auditorium
Noble High School**

**Elections & Referendum Questions – 8:00 am – 1:00 pm
Budget Meeting Session – 1:30 pm
GET OUT AND VOTE!!!**

Town of North Berwick
21 Main Street
P.O. Box 422
North Berwick, Maine 03906

www.townofnorthberwick.com

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