

2020 ANNUAL TOWN MEETING MINUTES

Corrected minutes: 01/06/2021

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING MINUTES MARCH 10 AND MARCH 11, 2020

At the annual Town Meeting of the Town of Holderness held on March 10 and 11, 2020 the following business was transacted.

At 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, March 10, 2020, at the Holderness 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 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, March 11, 2020 at Holderness Central School, the Meeting resumed following the Holderness Central School District Meeting. Moderator Rossner asked the veterans at the meeting to lead the Pledge of Allegiance and asked for a moment of silence for the residents who passed away in 2019, as he read their names aloud. Moderator Rossner noted the dedication of the 2019 Town Report to Malcolm "Tink" Taylor. The voters recognized Malcolm "Tink" Taylor with a round of applause. Moderator Rossner announced the Pemi-Baker District results. The Moderator Rossner announced the results of Article 1, the ballot vote for Town Officers. The Moderator Rossner declared Article 2, (To see if the Town will vote to allow the operation of Keno games within the Town) was defeated. Moderator Rossner announced that Maurice Lafreniere received the most write-in votes for Trustee of Trust Funds. The Moderator Rossner declared Article 3, the Zoning Amendments all passed. Moderator Rossner asked for a motion to dispense with reading of the Warrant in its entirety. Moved by Malcolm "Tink" Taylor and seconded by Nancy Ruhm.

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

Selectman for 3 Years: (Vote for Two)

Peter S. Francesco	192
Jill M White	194
<u>Write in:</u>	
Barbara Currier	1
Peter Desloge	1

2020 ANNUAL TOWN MEETING MINUTES (continued)

Article 12: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Twenty Thousand Dollars (\$20,000) for a statistical update of property values with funds for this appropriation to come from the Unassigned Fund Balance.

Moved by Bonnie Hunt and seconded by Peg Winton.
A voice vote was taken and the Article **PASSED**.

Article 13: By Petition: The science is clear; the climate is changing. We acknowledge that our planet is in a climate emergency. We the town of Holderness hereby call upon our state and federal elected representatives to enact carbon-pricing legislation to protect New Hampshire from the costs and environmental risks of continued climate inaction. To protect households, we support a carbon fee and dividend approach that charges fossil fuel producers for their carbon pollution and rebates the money collected to all residents on an equal basis. Enacting a carbon cash-back program decreases long-term fossil-fuel dependence, aids in the economic transition for energy consumers, and keeps local energy dollars in New Hampshire's economy. Carbon cash-back has been championed by US economists (Jan 17, 2019 WSJ) as the most effective and fair way to deliver rapid reductions in harmful carbon emissions at the scale required for our safety. We expect our representatives to take the lead in this critical moment for the health and well-being of our citizens and for the protection of New Hampshire's natural resources upon which we all rely.

The record of the vote approving this article shall be transmitted by written notice from the Holderness Select Board to our Holderness' State Legislators, the Governor of New Hampshire, Holderness' Congressional Delegation, and to the President of the United States, informing them of these instructions from their constituents, within 30 days of this vote.

Ted Vasant spoke on behalf of the petition reading from a prepared statement: "My name is Ted Vasant and I'm a member of the Holderness Climate Task Force that initiated this petition warrant Article that has over 150 signatures from Holderness residents. The overwhelming majority of scientists tell us that we are

2020 ANNUAL TOWN MEETING MINUTES (continued)

experiencing a climate emergency. It is an emergency because we need to act now because the solutions will take a long time to implement and we need to make significant changes within the next 10 years before we hit catastrophic tipping points. So, Scientists tell us there is a huge problem and Economists tell us that a carbon fee and dividend program, also known as carbon cashback, is the most effective and fair way to reduce fossil fuel use and address the climate crisis. There is a recent Wall Street Journal article that lists over 3000 prominent US Economists that support this solution. This warrant article allows the town of Holderness collectively to ask our state and federal officials to enact carbon cashback legislation, which would put a fee on the production of fossil fuels based on their carbon emissions. The reason you would put a fee on fossil fuels is that as costs increase there is incentive to use less by implementing energy efficiency and switching to renewable energy. So, what happens to these fees? This legislation provides full rebate of all the money collected, minus administration costs, to all households on an equal basis. Rebating the fees to citizens protects our economy, is fair to all citizens, and encourages innovation and unleashes American ingenuity to figure out ways to use less fossil fuels. This warrant article does not bind the town to any costs. By passing this warrant article it allows the town to make a collective statement that we care about Climate Change and that along with the other towns that pass this warrant article we want our state and federal elected officials to take action rather than continuing to kick this can down the road to future generations as we have done for the last several decades. We have known about this crisis for over 40 years but now recent reports tell us that it truly is an emergency that requires immediate action. It is also important to note that this Carbon Fee and Dividend concept has already been implemented in some way in over 40 countries. And what we are asking you to do is to ask our legislators to come up with the best way to implement this for our country. Are other NH Towns Voting on this too? Yes! Over 35 NH towns are voting on warrant articles with the exact same language. I realize that this may be a lot to absorb if you are hearing it for the first time so members of our task force are happy to answer questions about this after the meeting at the table just outside the gym. Why do we need to act now? Well I will ask the community, why do you think we need to act now?"

Heidi Emmons shared that she supports the resolution; she is concerned about the planet; she has children and as a parent it is her duty; it is a fair, quick and effective way to raise awareness.

2020 ANNUAL TOWN MEETING MINUTES (continued)

Byron Ricker asked to clarify who the residents are? Ted Vansant clarified that the total amount of the fees is put in a trust fund which is divided by US residents so each resident gets a rebate for the exact same amount. Gerry Beck supports the article; he has concerns about his grandchildren; concerning the rebate, he shared that people in higher income brackets leave higher carbon footprints so people in lower income brackets would benefit more proportionally; concerned about continuing on the path that we are on (fires, increasing, floods/droughts, etc.); this is a fair way to address the problem. Susan Mathieson said that she is a retired forester and has a small understanding of ecosystems; she voiced concerns about not doing anything to stop climate change; she supports the article; it is not a complete solution, but a good start. Larry Spencer supports the article. Arianne Fosdick said that this is our job as parents and global citizens; we need to protect our planet; carbon pricing is a solution. Sean Sparse suggested an amendment to the petition (Moderator Rossner reminded the audience that petitions cannot be amended); he recommends an end result to carbon pricing.

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

Article 14: By Petition: To bring this resolution to a vote before the Town of Holderness, NH.

To see if the Town of Holderness will vote to pass the following RESOLUTION:

WHEREAS, the Medicare for All Act of 2019 (H.R. 1384/S.1129) would provide national health insurance for every person in the United States for all necessary medical care including prescription drugs; hospital, surgical and outpatient services; primary and preventive care; emergency services; reproductive care; dental and vision care; and

WHEREAS, the health and quality of life for the residents of HOLDERNESS will vastly improve with Medicare for All because they would be able to get the ongoing care they need without copays and deductibles; and

WHEREAS, the Medicare for All Act of 2019 would result in the elimination of town and school health insurance costs in the Annual Budget and result in lower property taxes for the residents of Holderness;