

**STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
SITE EVALUATION COMMITTEE**

Docket No. 2015-06

**Joint Application of Northern Pass Transmission, LLC
and Public Service Company of New Hampshire
d/b/a Eversource Energy for a Certificate of Site and Facility**

**PREFILED DIRECT TESTIMONY OF DEBORAH STEVER ON BEHALF OF THE
EASTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN**

November 15, 2016

Background and Qualifications

Q. Please state your name.

A. My name is Deborah Stever.

Q. Please describe your official capacity in the Town of Easton?

A. I am a member of the Board of Selectmen of the Town of Easton.

Purpose of Testimony

Q. What is the purpose of this prefiled direct testimony?

A. My testimony is being presented on behalf of the Town of Easton's Board of Selectmen. Our testimony is for the following purposes: To express our concerns regarding the adverse effects the Northern Pass Project would have on the local and regional economy, real estate values and property taxes, as well as to provide the Site Evaluation Committee with information from the various studies the Town of Easton has performed regarding issues of concern about the Project.

It is anticipated that further testimony on additional issues such as natural resources, historic sites, aesthetics and the public interest will be provided by the current deadline of December 30, 2016.

Concerns of the Board of Selectmen

Q. What effect would the Northern Pass Project have on Easton's economy and the regional economy?

A. Easton has one business, Tamarack Tennis Camp. It hosts 60-70 children during each of its two summer sessions. The camp owns property on both sides of Route 116, and

1 children cross the road all day long. The construction of the Project would affect this business,
2 as well as the safety of the children.

3 In addition, numerous residents have wells on one side of the road, with their house located on
4 the other side of the road. As proposed, the construction and operation of the Project could
5 affect water quality and availability, as well as interfere with future maintenance or repair of the
6 water pipes. Furthermore, about one-third of the Town's residents live along Routes 116 and 112,
7 some with houses within tens of feet of the paved roadway. Construction and operation of the
8 Project along these roads would bring noise, air and ground pollution to the area and affect these
9 residents. The Project as proposed would cause the disruption of wetlands, contamination of
10 groundwater, damage to trees along the route from injury to root systems, and resulting erosion
11 and water runoff onto private property as those trees are lost.

12 The project would also adversely affect the Town's tourist economy. Easton has a number of
13 hiking trails off Routes 116 and 112, which bring tourists to the area. The construction phase of
14 the Project would deter them from coming to the area. Furthermore, Routes 116 and 112 both
15 cross the Ham Branch, one of the highest rated fishing streams in New Hampshire, numerous
16 times. The use of these roads for this Project could affect both tourism and fish habitat.

17 **Q. What effect would the Project have on real estate values in Easton?**

18 A. We are very concerned that the Project will decrease property values in Easton.
19 Many residents live directly on the proposed route and they would have to notify potential
20 buyers of that fact when putting their property up for sale. Property owners have indicated that if
21 the Project is constructed, they would apply to the Selectmen for tax abatements because their

1 property value would decrease. The Town would lose significant revenue if these abatements
2 were granted, and would incur significant costs to defend tax assessments before the BTLA or in
3 court. Easton's operating budget, after payment to the school district, is \$211,000.00. People
4 move to Easton for its beauty but also for its low taxes. These potential lawsuits regarding
5 property tax would be a huge burden on our taxpayers.

6 **Q. Has the Town taken any official position regarding the Project?**

7 A. Yes. At the 2011 Annual Meeting, the voters approved Warrant Article 13,
8 establishing and funding an expendable trust fund to support the Town's official opposition to
9 the Project. The article stated that "Opposing the Northern Pass Electrical Power Line Project is
10 in keeping with the provisions of the Town's Master Plan." See Appendix A to my testimony.
11 In 2012 and again in 2013, Town Meeting approved warrant articles to appropriate additional
12 money into this trust fund to continue its efforts. See Appendices B and C to my testimony. I
13 note that although the Project as presented to the SEC in 2015 was in some respects different
14 from the project that was presented to the Town before that time, the Town continues to oppose
15 the Project in its present configuration, running underground through the Town of Easton.

16 **Q. Does this end your testimony?**

17 A. Yes.

**TOWN OF EASTON
TOWN MEETING WARRANT
MARCH 8, 2011**

To the inhabitants of the Town of Easton, in the County of Grafton, qualified to vote in Town affairs: you are hereby notified to meet at the Town Hall in said Town on Tuesday, March 8, 2011. Polls are open from 3:00 PM to 6:00 PM for voting on Articles 1 thru 6. The Town's annual business meeting will follow at 7:00 PM.

Ballot Clerks Toni Woodruff, and Shirley Boucher were sworn in and Moderator Jim Collier called the warrant, officially opening the polls at 3:00pm. voting commenced from 3:00pm to 6:00pm

The annual business meeting for the Town of Easton was called to order by the Moderator, Jim Collier at 7:04 pm. Mr. Collier opened the meeting with a brief introduction to the tradition of the Town Meeting and the value of neighbors meeting each other and reconnecting after a long winter. He suggested that we celebrate our freedoms – the same ones that people in other countries around the world are currently fighting and dying for. The Pledge of Allegiance to the flag was then recited by the body.

The Moderator explained the rules of the meeting, how to overturn his decisions and reminded people to state their names and addresses when recognized and to address their comments to the Moderator.

The Moderator then introduced the Select Board members and the Town Clerk. and read the call to the warrant.

A motion was made by Andrew Noyes, seconded by many, to dispense with the reading of the entire Warrant. The motion passed on a unanimous voice vote.

**ARTICLE 1 – To choose all necessary officers for the ensuing year, and to see if the Town will vote to approve or disapprove the proposed amendments to the Town Zoning Ordinances as presented by the Planning Board on the Official Ballot.
(Ballot Vote)**

The results of Article 1 were announced as follows:

Selectman - 3 year term:

Kevin O'Brien 84

Town Clerk - 1 year term:

Bob Thibault 94

Tax Collector - 1 year term:

Denys Draper 72

Treasurer - 1 year term:

Darrel Gearhart 85

Planning Board - 3 year term:

James Collier 83

Planning Board - 3 year term:

Gary Harwood 87

Supervisor of the checklist - 3 year term:

Zhene (Zak) Mei 87

Supervisor of the Checklist – 1 year term:

Lisa Cutler 89

Cemetery Trustee –3 year term:

Richard Larcom 87

Library Trustee – 3 year term:

Laura Sabre 87

Article 2 – Wetland Conservation District

Are you in favor of replacing Section 604 (Wetland Conservation District) in its entirety with 604 (Wetlands Conservation Overlay District), to bring the Ordinance in compliance with the revised Master Plan? (The Planning Board recommends adoption of this Article.) *Article 2 passed on a ballot vote, 68 yes, 23 no.*

Article 3 – Ground Water Protection District

Are you in favor of replacing section 605 (Aquifer Protection District) in its entirety with -605- (Ground Water Protection District), to meet State statute requirements and to bring the section into agreement with the revised Master Plan? (The Planning Board recommends adoption of this Article.) *Article 3 passed on a ballot vote, 71 yes, 22 no.*

Article 4 – Permitted Residential Uses

Are you in favor of inserting an additional use in Section 601A-: Work Force Housing-, as required by RSA 674:58-61? (The Planning Board recommends adoption of this Article.) *Article 4 passed on a ballot vote, 63 yes, 26 no.*

Article 5 – Lot Size Averaging

Are you in favor of inserting as Section 706, area regulation to permit flexibility in subdivision design to promote the most appropriate use of land and the protection of productive agricultural or forest land, scenic views, historic sites, wetlands, hillsides, important habitat areas, and other resources of importance to the community while minimizing the alteration of the natural topography of the land, in accordance with the goals and objectives of the Master Plan? (The Planning board recommends adoption of this Article.) *Article 5 passed on a ballot vote, 63 yes, 30 no.*

Article 6 – Steep Slopes, Hillside, and Ridgeline Development Overlay District

Are you in favor of replacing Section 606 (Steep Slopes Regulation District) with the Steep Slopes, Hillside and Ridgeline Development Overlay District to protect the scenic and ecological resources associated with lands characterized by higher elevations, steep slopes, and visual sensitivity in a manner that allows for carefully designed, low-impact development which retains the rural character of the Town of Easton? (The Planning Board recommends adoption of this Article.) *Article 6 passed on a ballot vote, 60 yes, 33 no.*

Article 7: Town Operating Budget

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$192,902 for general Town operations as follows:

- | | |
|---|----------|
| • Executive | \$13,650 |
| • Election, Registration & Vital Stats & Town Clerk | \$13,150 |
| • Financial Administration | \$12,750 |

• Revaluation of Individual Properties	\$4,380
• Legal Expenses	\$5,000
• Personnel Administration – Payroll Taxes	\$1,560
• Planning & Zoning	\$2,500
• Government Buildings	\$10,700
• Cemetery	\$2,500
• Insurance	\$5,095
• Advertising & Regional Associations	\$1,588
• Contingency Fund	\$7,500
• Police Department	\$1,000
• Ambulances	\$3,620
• Fire Department	\$17,850
• Building Inspections	\$300
• Emergency Management	\$1,300
• Communications (Dispatch)	\$1,500
• Highway Maintenance	\$42,000
• Hazardous Waste Collection	\$100
• Solid Waste	\$19,904
• Animal & Pest Control	\$300
• Health Agencies & Hospitals	\$1,670
• Welfare Assistance	\$2,000
• Tri-County Community Action Program	\$2,000
• Tri-Town Recreation Programs	\$8,191
• Easton Library	\$250
• Patriotic Purposes – 4 th of July	\$100
• Conservation Commission	\$1,380
• Principal Payment on \$120,000.00 Construction Bond	\$6,000
• Interest on \$120,000.00 Construction Bond	\$3,064

Total Operating Budget: **\$192,902**

Moved by Tom Boucher that the Town raise and appropriate the sum of \$192,902.00 in it's entirety for general Town Operations. Seconded by Denys Draper. Ed O'Brien moved to amend the motion to increase the Selectman's salary from \$1500.00 to \$3000.00 each, stating that they are the hardest working people in the town. Seconded by Denys Draper. Tom Boucher spoke to the myriad of things the Selectman did and surprise at the amendment expressing ambivalence to it. Denys Draper spoke of the Selectman's willingness to respond to any questions from anyone at any time. The motion to amend passed on a voice vote, verified by a show of hands, 32 yea, 18 nay.

Pat Every moved to amend the amended amount by deleting the \$8,191.00 for the Tri-Town recreation program. Seconded by Bill German.

Jim Hunt spoke of his volunteering with the program and of how worthy the program was and that he gave it his full support. Brenda Adam reminded the body that adults are also served by the program for example, a dance program. Beth Harwood urged to keep the line item saying it provided an opportunity to work together with our neighboring communities and how important it was for isolated rural children to get

together. Tom Palmer, representative for the Tri Town Rec. program stated that 50% of the program's funds come from the towns served with the remainder from various fees and events. Ed O'Brien stated that there is a lack of communication to the town about the programs offered and suggested that the events be posted at the town hall. Mike Platt informed the body that the Franconia Trails map was a rec. program project. The question was moved and seconded. The motion to delete the line for the Tri-town Rec. Program failed on a unanimous voice vote.

Discussion resumed on the amended motion of the amended Operating budget of \$197,402.00. Ralph Brigida pointed out that with the increase in Selectman's salary, the payroll tax would also have to be increased by about \$300.00. The motion was made by Denys Draper, seconded by Ellen Malessa to include that amount in the amendment. Motion passed unanimously. The operating budget, now amended to \$197,702.00 passed on a unanimous voice vote.

At this point the results of the voting on Articles 1 through 6 were announced and are posted above.

Article 8 – Town Roads Maintenance Expendable Trust Fund

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$9,500.00 to add to the Town Roads Maintenance Expendable Trust Fund. (The Selectmen recommend adoption of this Warrant Article.) (Majority vote required.) *The article was read and moved by Kevin O'Brien and seconded by Sue Ford. Denys Draper questioned the phrase "majority vote required" in the article write-up and was answered that it was just to point out that a majority, not a 2/3s vote was required. Dennis Ford asked what the total in the fund was and the purpose of the fund. He was answered that it was \$43,028.00 as shown on page 24 of the Town Report, and the purpose of the fund is to be able to maintain town roads without or minimizing the amount of bond money that may be required. Mr. Ford expressed his concern about taxpayers of today putting money away for the benefit of taxpayers of the future who may not have paid toward that benefit. He also wondered whether it was legal. Tom Boucher spoke to some potential projects that the town could have to undertake, the Gibson Road and Rt. 116 intersection for example.*

Anita Craven questioned who is authorized to expend those funds, the answer was the Selectmen.

The Article passed on a unanimous voice vote.

Article 9 – Expendable Trust Fund for Maintenance and Repair of Government Buildings

To see if the Town will vote to create an Expendable Trust Fund for the maintenance and repair of government buildings, to raise and appropriate \$10,000 to be placed in this Fund, and to appoint the Selectmen agents to expend (The Selectmen recommend adoption of this Warrant Article.) (Majority vote required.) *The article was read and moved by Tom Boucher, seconded by Ed O'Brien. Tom Boucher explained the relationship of this article 9 to the next two articles 10 and 11. Explaining that the purpose was to create a new fund and move the monies from the old fund to the new fund. He also pointed out that the Town Hall kitchen need repairs and the basement could be modified for storage. Anita Craven asked where in the Town Report the fund*

showed, the response was it was on page 24. The Article passed on a unanimous voice vote.

Article 10 – Movement of Funds from the Capital Reserve Fund to the Expendable Trust Fund for Maintenance and Repair of Government Buildings

To see if the Town will vote to move all funds from the Capital Reserve Fund to the Expendable Trust Fund for the maintenance and repair of government buildings (The Selectmen recommend adoption of this Warrant Article.) (Majority vote required.) *The article was read and moved by Tom Boucher, seconded by Denys Draper. The Article passed on a unanimous voice vote.*

Article 11 – Discontinuance of the Capital Reserve Fund for the Maintenance and Repair of Government Buildings

To see if the Town will vote to discontinue the Capital Reserve Fund for the maintenance and repair of government buildings (The Selectmen recommend adoption of this Warrant Article.) (Majority Vote Required..) *The article was read and moved by Tom Boucher, seconded by Sue Ford. The Article passed on a unanimous voice vote.*

Article 12 – Conservation Fund

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$500.00 to add to the Conservation Fund. (The Selectmen recommend adoption of this Warrant Article.) (Majority vote required.) *The article was read and moved by Sonia German, seconded by John Hynes. Ralph Brigida asked what the purpose of the request was and was answered that to fund projects nor covered by the Conservation Commission (C.C.) budget, for example, the Taking Action for Wildlife program to earmark certain wildlife areas and for Northern Pass opposition costs. Mr. Brigida opined that the request was not needed. Denys Draper, C.C. member, pointed out that the budget was intended for normal operating expenses and not projects like restoring wild apple trees and the CCC camp work. The Article passed on a voice vote.*

Article 13 – Expendable Trust Fund for Legal Fees Incurred Representing the Town's Position Regarding the Northern Pass Project

To see if the Town will vote to create an Expendable Trust Fund in accordance with RSA 31:19-a for the purpose of paying legal fees arising from the Town's efforts to oppose the Northern Pass Electrical Power Line Project. Further to raise and appropriate the sum of \$2,500.00 to be placed in this fund, until rescinded, and to appoint the Selectmen as agents to expend. Opposing the Northern Pass Electrical Power Line Project is in keeping with the provisions of the Town's Master Plan. (The Selectmen recommend adoption of this Warrant Article.) (Majority vote required.) *The Article was moved and expanded upon by Kevin O'Brien as follows, "I move that the Town vote to create an Expendable Trust Fund in accordance with RSA 31:19-a for the purpose of funding all expenses including but not limited to legal clerical and distributive incurred from the Town's efforts to oppose the Northern Pass Electrical Power Line Project and that the Town raise and appropriate \$2500.00 and appoint the Selectmen as agents to expend and/or accept additional funds for informing state and federal legislators, state and federal regulatory agencies including the Public Utilities commission, Department of*

Environmental Services, state and federal government offices including the New Hampshire governor and council, of Easton Residents' Resolve to prevent the construction of and prevent acquisition of land therefore, and all other activities designed to promote, plan or construct the proposed Northern Pass, LLC Power Transmission Project through the Town of Easton in accordance with the following Resolution:

WHEREAS the Northern Pass Power Transmission Project as presently proposed would pass through the Town of Easton and the White Mountain National Forest, and WHEREAS this project would blight the landscape and devastate the values of properties within its transmission corridor and adversely impact fragile wildlife habitat and wetlands located within Easton and the National Forest, and WHEREAS this project would make the area less attractive for outdoor recreational activities and tourism, now be it

RESOLVED that the Town strongly opposes this project, that a copy of this resolution be distributed per the foregoing motion and to all additional forums as may be possible within the limits of this funding.

Opposing the Northern Pass Electrical Power Line Project is in keeping with provisions of the Town's Master Plan. (The Selectmen recommend adoption of this Warrant Article.)

There was much discussion as to why the Town should oppose the Northern pass – negative financial impacts, disparity in published figures especially with respect to increased property tax income and reductions in electric bills. Bob Craven pointed that the Town is already on record as opposed and as interveners.

The Article as read passed on a unanimous voice vote.

Article 14 – New Town Ordinance Prohibiting Snow Removal Onto Town Roads
To see if the Town will vote to create a new Town Ordinance that prohibits a person from creating a snow obstruction by plowing snow onto the right of way of any town road. Such prohibited conduct constitutes a violation. (The Selectmen recommend adoption of this Warrant Article.) (Majority vote required.) **The article was read and moved by Kevin O'Brien, seconded by Denys Draper. Ellen Pritham questioned how the ordinance would be enforced. Tom Boucher answered that it would be by a police officer and that an ordinance is required for a police officer to have something to enforce. This article would provide that ordinance. Tom Palmer confirmed that it didn't prevent one from plowing across a roadway if they cleaned up immediately. Dennis Ford spoke to support the article. The question was moved by Kevin O'Brien, Seconded by Denys Draper. The motion to move passed and the article passed on a unanimous voice vote.**

Article 15 – Boys' and Girls' Club Donation

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,000.00 to support the Boys' and Girls' Club of the North Country in order to provide a "Fun, Safe, and Positive Place" for all kids of the North Country. (The Selectmen recommend this Appropriation.) (Majority vote required.) **The Article was read and moved by Sonia German and seconded by Patricia O'Brien. A valid petition for ballot vote was presented to and accepted by the Moderator. Much discussion entailed prior to the ballot vote by many**

in attendance with objections to funding a private organization through taxes and how to decide which ones to fund countered by many testimonials to the value of supporting an area community service for young people. It was pointed out that the Town already makes contributions to several other non-profit organizations it feels are worthy of community value. After much impassioned discussion the question was moved by Tom Boucher, seconded by many and passed. Voting ensued. The article passed with 37 yes votes to 21 no votes.

Article 16 – The Grading and Graveling of the Kinsman Trail Entrance
To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$2,500.00 to grade and gravel the Kinsman Trail entrance from Route 116 on lot 1-55 (The Selectmen recommend this Appropriation.) (Majority vote required.) *The Article was read and moved by Tom Boucher, seconded by Denys Draper. Tom Boucher explained the purpose of the article was to improve the driveway to the Kinsman Trailhead so that it could be plowed in the winter so that the vehicles could park in the parking area off the road. The State has agreed to plow the parking area if the town would gravel the driveway. The generosity of Dr. Eric White, owner of the property in contributing the area to be used for trailhead parking was acknowledged appreciated by all in attendance. The Article passed on a unanimous voice vote.*

Article 17 – To Act Upon Any Other Business That May Legally Come Before This Meeting

Denys Draper informed the body about the Pastry and Preservation meeting on April 16th featuring Will Abbot of the NH SPNHF. Jim Collier thanked Doug Garfield for acting as Moderator during the earlier polling hours. Kris Pastoriza was recognized and thanked by the body for her tenacious work on getting the Kinsman Cemetery placed on the NH Register of Historic Places.

Lastly, Kevin O'Brien made an appeal for more town people to get involved in the Towns affairs.

*Moved by Sue Ford to adjourn, seconded by many. Passed unanimously.
Meeting adjourned at 9:36.*

Respectfully submitted,
Bob Thibault
Town Clerk, Easton



**TOWN OF EASTON
TOWN MEETING WARRANT
MARCH 13, 2012**

To the inhabitants of the Town of Easton, in the County of Grafton, qualified to vote in Town affairs: You are hereby notified to meet at the Town Hall in said Town on Tuesday, March 13, 2012. Polls are open from 3:00PM to 6:00PM for voting on Article 1. The Town's annual business meeting will follow at 7:00PM.

Ballot Clerks were sworn in at 2:30 pm, and as Moderator Jim Collier was on the ballot for reelection, he appointed and swore in an acting Moderator, Brenda Adam, to serve during voting hours. He then called the warrant, officially opening the polls at 3:00pm. Voting commenced from 3:00pm to 6:00pm. election results are below.

The annual business meeting for the Town of Easton was called to order by the Moderator, Jim Collier at 7:00 pm. Mr. Collier opened the meeting with The Pledge of Allegiance to the flag. He pointed out how nice it was that we enjoyed the freedom to do that. He made a brief introduction to the tradition of the Town Meeting form of government and gave the usual basic guidelines of the rules of the meeting including how to overturn his decisions and reminded people to state their names and addresses when recognized and to address their comments to the Moderator. The Moderator then introduced the Select Board members and the Town Clerk and read the call to the warrant.

A motion was made by Frank Woodruff, seconded by many, to dispense with the reading of the entire Warrant. The motion passed on a unanimous voice vote.

ARTICLE 1. To choose all necessary officers for the ensuing year, on the Official Ballot.
(Ballot Vote)

The Moderator read the article and announced the results of the Article as follows:

Selectman - 3 year term:

Ned Cutler 56

Moderator -2 year term:

James Collier 52

Town Clerk - 1 year term:

Bob Thibault 56

Supervisor of the checklist - 6 year term:

Lisa Cutler 51

Tax Collector - 1 year term:

Lisa Cutler (write-in) 39

Cemetery Trustee -3 year term::

Kris Pastoriza 56

Treasurer - 1 year term:

Darrel Gearhart 51

Library Trustee - 3 year term:

Laura Treuman 50

Planning Board - 3 year term:

Kathy Ouellette 54

Mr. Collier also thanked Brenda Adam for sitting in on the election as acting moderator and helping with the vote count, along with Barbara Collier, Frank and Toni Woodruff, Sonia German, Trish O'Brien and Shirley Boucher.

ARTICLE 2. Town Operating Budget

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$209,145 for general Town operations as follows:

Executive	\$18,150
Elect Regls, Town Clk, Vital Sta	\$13,150
Financial Administration	\$11,800
Revaluation of Individual Prop.	\$4,600
Legal Expenses	\$5,000
Personnel Admin. & Payroll Taxes	\$2,000
Planning & Zoning	\$2,500
Government Buildings	\$16,200
Cemetery	\$2,075
Insurance	\$5,027
Advertising & Regional Assoc.	\$2,574
General Government-Contingency	\$7,500
Police Department	\$1,500
Ambulances	\$3,770
Fire Department	\$17,950
Building Inspections	\$300
Emergency Mgmt - Forest Fire	\$750
Emergency Mgmt-Communication	\$1,500
Highway Maintenance	\$44,000
Hazardous Waste Collection	\$100
Solid Waste	\$21,871
Animal & Pest Control	\$300
Health Agencies & Hospitals	\$1,938
Welfare Direct Assistance	\$3,000
Other Welfare-Tri County CAP	\$2,000
Tri-Town Recreation Programs	\$8,676
Library	\$250
Patriotic Purposes	\$100
Other - Conservation Commission	\$1,500
Construction Bond - Principal	\$6,000
Construction Bond - Interest	\$3,064
Total Operating Budget	\$209,145

Tom Boucher moved to raise and appropriate the sum of \$209,145.00 for general Town operations, seconded by Sonia German. The article passed on a unanimous voice vote with no discussion.

ARTICLE 3. Rights Based Ordinance

To see if the Town is in favor of the right to a sustainable energy future and community self-governance "Rights Based Ordinance" to protect the health, safety, and welfare of residents and ecosystems of Easton, New Hampshire. (The Selectmen recommend adoption of this Warrant Article) (Majority vote required.)

A copy of the proposed ordinance is posted with a copy of the warrant and copies of the proposed ordinance are available at the Town Clerk's Office.

(Copies of this Ordinance will be available at both the Town Budget Meeting of February 7th and at the Annual Town Meeting on March 13th.)

Moved by Kevin O'Brien to adopt, seconded by Beth Harwood. Fred Moody asked for clarification of the article. The board deferred to Campbell McLaren who responded with handouts. He also related the two meetings held in Easton and a meeting in Franconia concerning the ordinance. He informed the body that 121 towns to date in the country have adopted this type of ordinance. Some of the objectives of such ordinances are to dispute or eliminate "personhood" for corporations and to return to the meaning of New Hampshire's and the U.S. Bill of Rights. The article passed unanimously on a voice vote.

ARTICLE 4. Town Roads and Maintenance Expendable Trust Fund

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$9,500.00 to add to the Town Roads Maintenance Expendable Trust Fund. (The Selectmen recommend adoption of this Warrant Article.) (Majority vote required.)

The article was moved as written by Sonia German and seconded by Ned Cutler. No discussion ensued and the article passed unanimously on a voice vote.

ARTICLE 5. Expendable Trust Fund for Maintenance and Repair of Government Buildings

To see if the Town will vote to add \$20,000.00 to the Expendable Trust Fund for the maintenance and repair of government buildings. (The Selectmen recommend adoption of this Warrant Article.) (Majority vote required.)

The article was moved as written by Tom Boucher, seconded by Shirley Boucher. Greg Sorg asked how this money was different than the budget line item of Government Buildings for \$16,200. Mr. Boucher explained that that line item was for the usual routine repairs such as electrical work, heating system upkeep, and other minor building repairs whereas this fund would be used for major repairs such as a new roof and a new well. Denys Draper reminded the board that they should spend the moneys appropriated, feeling that they were slow to do so.

The article passed on a voice vote.

ARTICLE 6. Conservation Fund

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$500.00 to add to the Conservation Trust Fund. (The Selectmen recommend adoption of this Warrant Article.) (Majority vote required.)

The article was moved as written by Kevin O'Brien and seconded by Steve Sabre. Denys Draper, Conservation Commission member, stated that the word "trust" should not be a part of the article. Steve Sabre motioned to amend the article to change the wording from "trust fund" to just "fund" in the article, seconded by Patricia O'Brien. The motion to amend passed on a unanimous voice vote. Fred Moody questioned what the fund was to be used for. Ms. Draper responded that monies could go into the fund from Land Use Change Taxes or contributions and that this was not an operating budget fund. The amended article passed unanimously on a voice vote.

ARTICLE 7. Expendable Trust Fund for Legal Fees Incurred Representing the Town's Position Regarding the Northern Pass Project

To see if the Town will vote to create an Expendable Trust Fund in accordance with RSA 31:19-a for the purpose of paying legal fees arising from the Town's efforts to oppose the Northern Pass Electrical Power Line Project. Further to raise and appropriate the sum of \$2,500.00 to be placed in the fund, until rescinded, and to appoint the Selectmen as agents to expend. Opposing the Northern Pass Electrical Power Line Project is in keeping with the provisions of the Town's Master Plan. (The Selectmen recommend adoption of this Warrant Article.) (Majority Vote required.)

Article 7 was moved as written by Sonia German and seconded by Sue Ford. Ardel Patterson how much was expended to date, Kevin O'Brien answered nothing to date. Mike Platt questioned whether this fund could also be used for the Rights Based Ordinance legal fees and was answered that yes, it could be. The article passed on a unanimous voice vote.

ARTICLE 8. Avitar Assessing System Software

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$5,960.00 to purchase the Avitar Assessing System software from Avitar Associates of New England. The cost includes \$4,700.00 for the software, and \$1,260.00 for the manual conversion costs. This new software will calculate tax bills and the tax warrant which can then be exported to the Avitar Tax Collection program. (The Selectmen recommend the adoption of this Warrant Article.) (Majority vote required.)

The article was moved as written by Tom Boucher, seconded by Bob Thibault. No discussion ensued and the article passed on a unanimous voice vote.

Article 9: To Act Upon Any Other Business That May Legally Come Before This Meeting

Denys Draper stood to thank Sonia German for serving the Town as Select person for the past 3 years which was responded to with a resounding round of applause from the body for Sonia German. Tom Boucher praised Sonia's willingness to step up to perform a civic duty and for the hard work and passion that she brought to the position.

Sonia German then spoke of her history in coming to this country with husband Bill and how they came to Easton, got her citizenship and was included in the management of the Town. She commended Select Chair Tom Boucher for his passion and dedication to the job always for the good of the Town. Lastly, she thanked the body for giving her the honor of serving and said that it was the best time of her life.

Steve Sabre stood to thank outgoing Tax Collector Denys Draper for her years of service which was also met with resounding applause from the body.

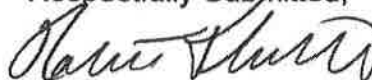
Tom Boucher then communicated information about the opportunity to purchase an 812 acre parcel of land in Easton for \$612,000 to be used as a Town forest. More detailed information would be provided at an upcoming Pastry and Preservation meeting.

He also informed the body that work was progressing slowly with the state on revamping the Gibson Road and Rt. 116 intersection and on doing something about the poor condition of Sugar Hill Road.

A motion to adjourn was made by Ardel Patterson, seconded by many and passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:54 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,



Bob Thibault
Easton Town Clerk

Right to A Sustainable Energy Future and Community Self-Government Ordinance

A RIGHTS- BASED ORDINANCE TO PROTECT THE HEALTH, SAFETY, AND WELFARE OF RESIDENTS AND ECOSYSTEMS OF EASTON, NEW HAMPSHIRE BY ESTABLISHING A BILL OF RIGHTS FOR EASTON RESIDENTS BY RECOGNIZING THEIR RIGHT TO A SUSTAINABLE ENERGY FUTURE AND BY PROHIBITING THE SITING OF NEW ENERGY PROJECTS THAT VIOLATE THE PEOPLE'S RIGHT TO A SUSTAINABLE ENERGY FUTURE.

Whereas, this ordinance establishes a Bill of Rights which recognizes and secures the civil and political rights of Easton residents; and

Whereas, this ordinance recognizes and secures a right to a sustainable energy future; and

Whereas, this ordinance then prohibits the land acquisition necessary for the construction of unsustainable energy systems, or land acquisition necessary to engage in construction or siting of any structure to be used in the operation of unsustainable energy systems, because such actions would violate the right of Easton to a sustainable energy future; and

Whereas, this ordinance recognizes and secures a right to preserve the aesthetic values of the town, including clean air, pure water, healthy soil and unspoiled vistas that are essential for residents and the tourism that provides economic sustainability for local businesses.

Whereas, this ordinance removes legal powers and authority from corporations within the Town that are in violation of this ordinance or are seeking to engage in activities that are prohibited by this ordinance, in recognition that those legal powers are illegitimate and unjust, in that they place the rights of a corporate minority over the rights and political authority of a majority of Easton residents, thereby nullifying those rights and authority; and

Whereas, this ordinance shall be known and may be cited as "The Town of Easton's Right to a Sustainable Energy Future and Community Self-Government Ordinance"; and

Whereas, this ordinance is enacted pursuant to the inherent right of the residents of Easton to govern their own community, including, without limitation, the Declaration of Independence's declaration that governments are instituted to secure the rights of people; and the New Hampshire Constitution's recognition that "all government of right originates from the people, is founded in consent and instituted for the general good."

Section 1—Findings and intent

The residents of the Town of Easton recognize that the current energy policies of the State of New Hampshire and the United States have long been directed by a small handful of energy corporations and the directors of those corporations, and that central control over energy policies forces reliance upon unsustainable industrial-scale energy production and denies the rights of residents to a sustainable energy future.

The Residents of the Town of Easton recognizes that environmental and economic sustainability cannot be achieved if the rights of community majorities are routinely overridden

heat or power and the energy produced is not sold, transmitted, or distributed.

Section 3- Statements of Law—Rights of the Residents and the Natural Environment

(a) Right to a Sustainable Energy Future. The residents of Easton have a right to a sustainable energy future in which energy decisions are made by the community and in which fuel sources used to generate energy are renewable and sustainable.

(b) Right to Water. All residents, natural communities and ecosystems in Easton possess a fundamental and inalienable right to sustainably access, use, consume and preserve water drawn from natural water cycles that provide water necessary to sustain life within the Town.

(c) Rights of Natural Communities. Natural communities and ecosystems including, but not limited to, wetlands, streams, rivers, aquifers and other water systems possess inalienable and fundamental rights to exist and flourish within the Town of Easton. Residents of the town shall possess legal standing to enforce those rights on behalf of those natural communities and ecosystems.

(d) Right to Scenic Preservation. All residents of the Town of Easton possess a fundamental and inalienable right to protect and preserve the scenic, historic and aesthetic values of the town, including clean air, pure water, healthy soil, and unspoiled vistas that provide the foundation for tourism and economic sustainability for local businesses. Residents and local representatives have the authority to enact and enforce legislation that guarantees and exercise of local self-government that is protective of these rights.

(e) Right to Self-Government. All residents of Easton possess the fundamental and inalienable right to a form of governance where they live which recognizes that all power is inherent in the people, and that all free governments are founded on the people's authority and consent, and that corporate entities and their directors and managers shall not enjoy special privileges or powers under the law which make community majorities subordinate to them.

(f) People as Sovereign. The Town of Easton shall be the governing authority responsible to and governed by the residents of the town. Use of the "Town of Easton" municipal corporation by the sovereign people of the Town to make law shall not be construed to limit or surrender the sovereign authority or immunities of the people to a municipal corporation that is subordinate to them in all respects at all times. The people at all times enjoy and retain an inalienable and infeasible right to self-governance in the community where they reside.

(g) Rights as Self-Executing. All rights delineated and secured by this ordinance shall be self-executing and these rights shall be enforceable against corporations and governmental entities, as defined within this Ordinance.

Section 4-Statements of Law-Prohibitions Necessary to Secure a Bill of Rights' Protections

(a) It shall be unlawful within the Town of Easton for a corporation, or any person using a

be paid to the Town of Easton or other applicable governmental entity, to be used exclusively for the full and complete restoration of the natural community or ecosystem.

Section 6 – Sustainable Energy Policy

The Town shall implement a Sustainable Energy Policy following the adoption of this ordinance that provides a plan for the community's reduction in use of power from unsustainable energy systems, withing a time frame agreed to by the residents, to be decided by popular vote.

Section 7- Effective Date and Existing Permit holders

This Ordinance shall be effective five (5) days after the date of its enactment, at which point the Ordinance shall apply to any and all commercial production, distribution, transportation, or transmission of energy that would violate this Ordinance regardless of the date of any applicable local, state, or federal permits.

Section 8 - People's Right to Self-Government

The foundation for the making and adoption of this law is the people's fundamental and inalienable right to govern themselves, and thereby secure their rights to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. Any attempts to use other units and levels of government to preempt, amend, alter or overturn this Ordinance or parts of this Ordinance, shall require the Town of Easton to hold public meetings that explore the adoption of other measures that expand local control and the ability of residents to protect their fundamental and inalienable right to self-government. Such consideration may include actions to separate the municipality from the other levels of government used to preempt, amend, alter, or overturn the provisions of this Ordinance or other levels of government used to intimidate the people of the Town of Easton or their elected officials.

Section 9 - Severability

The provisions of this Ordinance are severable. If any court of competent jurisdiction decides that any section, clause, sentence, part, or provision of this Ordinance is illegal, invalid, or unconstitutional, such decision shall not affect, impair, or invalidate any of the remaining sections, clauses, sentences, parts, or provisions of the Ordinance. The Town of Easton hereby declares that in the event of such a decision, and the determination that the court's ruling is legitimate, it would have enacted this Ordinance even without the section clause, sentence, part, or provision that the court decides is illegal, invalid, or unconstitutional.

Section 10 - Repealer

All inconsistent provision of prior Ordinances adopted by the Town of Easton are hereby repealed, but only to the extent necessary to remedy the inconsistency.

ENACTED AND ORDAINED this _____ day of _____, 2012, by the Town of Easton, in Grafton County, New Hampshire

By:

**TOWN MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 12, 2013**

To the inhabitants of the Town of Easton, in the County of Grafton, qualified to vote in Town affairs: You are hereby notified to meet at the Town Hall in said Town on Tuesday, March 12, 2013. Polls are open from 3:00PM to 6:00PM for voting on Articles 1-4. The Town's annual business meeting will follow at 7:00PM.

Ballot clerks were sworn in at 2:45 pm by Bob Thibault, Town Clerk. Jim Collier, Moderator, called the warrant, reading the paragraph above officially opening the polls at 3:00 pm. A motion was made to dispense with the reading of the entire warrant by Bob Thibault, seconded by many and passed on a voice vote. Voting commenced from 3:00 pm to 6:00 pm. Election results are below.

The annual business meeting for the Town of Easton was called to order at 7:00 pm by the Moderator who welcomed everyone and led the Pledge of Allegiance. He made a brief introduction to the tradition of the Town Meeting form of government and gave the usual basic guidelines of the rules of the meeting and reminded people to state their names and addresses when recognized and to address their comments to the Moderator. The Moderator then called attention to the dedication of this year's Annual Report to Joseph Darvid, a lifelong resident of Easton who recently passed away. Toni Woodruff, Selectboard secretary, was commended on the fine write up of the dedication. The Moderator then introduced Beth Towle as the Assistant Moderator and read the call to the warrant.

A motion was made by Barbara Collier, seconded by Trish O'Brien to dispense with the reading of the entire Warrant. The motion passed on a unanimous voice vote.

Article 1. To choose all necessary officers for the ensuing year, on the Official Ballot. (Ballot Vote)

The Moderator read the article and announced the results of the Article as follows:

With 73 people voting:

Selectman - 3 year term:

Zhenye "Zak" Mei 69

Trustee of The Trust Funds - 3 year term:

Ralph Brigida 70

Town Clerk - 1 year term:

Bob Thibault 72

Supervisor of the checklist - 6 year term:

Lisa Cutler 70

Tax Collector - 1 year term:

Lisa Cutler 62

Cemetery Trustee - 3 year term::

Denys Draper 53

Treasurer - 1 year term:

Darrel Gearhart 71

Library Trustee - 3 year term:

Bernice Ford 71

Planning Board - 3 year term:

Phil Reeder 38

Article 2. To see if the Town is in favor of the adoption of Amendment #1 as proposed by the Planning Board for the Town of Easton Zoning Ordinance as follows:

Amendment #1 proposes to reorganize several sections of the Ordinance to update several sections pursuant to changes in State law, and incorporate additional provisions of State law. (The Planning Board recommends adoption of this Article) (Ballot vote)

YES 69

NO 3

Article 3. To see if the Town is in favor of the adoption of Amendment #2 as proposed by the Planning Board for the Town of Easton Zoning Ordinance as follows:

Amendment #2 proposes to change the status of telecommunications towers and the status of excavations from permitted uses to uses allowed by special exception. In addition, language would be added to Section 1003 (Special Exceptions) requiring the Zoning Board of Adjustment to make several findings regarding safety, property values, and compatibility of the proposed excavation with the neighboring land uses prior to issuing the special exception. (The Planning Board recommends adoption of this Article) (Ballot vote)

YES 65

NO 6

Article 4. To see if the Town is in favor of the adoption of Amendment #3 as proposed by the Planning Board for the Town of Easton Zoning Ordinance as follows:

Amendment #3 moves the provision regarding driveway grades from Section 606 to a new Section, 810, in Article 8. Passage of this Amendment will mean that these limits would apply throughout the Town. (The Planning Board recommends adoption of this Article) (Ballot vote)

YES 60

NO 10

ARTICLE 5. Town Operating Budget

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$223,415 for general Town operations as follows:

Executive	18,150
Elect Regis, Town Clk, Vital Sta	12,650
Financial Administration	12,700
Revaluation of Individual Prop.	7,100
Legal Expenses	5,000
Personnel Admin. & Payroll Taxes	2,000
Planning & Zoning	2,500
Government Buildings	16,200
Cemetery	3,575
Insurance	5,100
NH Association of Assessing Officials	1,500
General Government-Contingency	7,500
Police Department	1,000
Ambulances	3,770
Fire Department	23,800
Building Inspections	300
Emergency Management-Forest Fires	0
Emergency Mgmt-Communication	1,500
Highway Maintenance	45,000
Hazardous Waste Collection	100

Solid Waste	25,167
Animal & Pest Control	300
Health Agencies & Hospitals	1,325
Welfare	3,000
Other Welfare	2,290
Tri-Town Recreation Programs	9,888
Library	250
Patriotic Purposes	100
Boys and Girls Club of the North Country	1,000
Other · Conservation Commission	1,750
Construction Bond – Principal	6,200
Construction Bond – Interest	2,700
Total Operating Budget	\$223,415

Kevin O'Brien moved that the Town raise and appropriate the sum of \$223,415 for general Town operations, seconded by Ned Cutler.

Ralph Brigida moved to amend the motion by reducing the General Government Contingency budget line from \$7500 to \$2500. Motion to amend seconded by Cliff Chippendale.

Discussion ensued as to what the fund was for and whether the amount had changed in recent years. Select board responded that the fund is for use if the budget is overspent and no, it hadn't changed in recent years.

Motion to move the question by Trish O'Brien, seconded by many and passed on a voice vote.

Motion to amend failed on a voice vote.

Back to the original motion, Ed O'Brien moved to discuss the budget line by line. Seconded by Denys Draper. Line by line motion failed on a voice vote.

Denys Draper asked the Select Board what the result of the ambulance service negotiations were and what the cost was. Board responded that a contract had been signed with Calnex Ambulance service for \$4000. The budgeted amount was \$3770.

Denys Draper moved to zero out the Boys and Girls club donation of \$1000 and distribute it evenly among the other charitable organizations the town had budgeted donations for.

Motion seconded by Frank Woodruff. Much discussion by many as to the propriety of donating tax money to private charitable organizations. Motion to move the question to zero out the Boys and Girls club donation and re-distribute it was made by Gary Harwood, seconded by Denys Draper and passed on a voice vote. That motion to amend failed on a hand count.

Ralph Brigida moved to amend the original motion by reducing the line for the Boys and Girls club to \$250. Motion seconded by Cliff Chippendale. Natalie Stever pointed out how little that sum amounted to, about a dollar per resident per year.

Question moved by Darrel Gearhart seconded by Trish O'Brien and passed on a voice vote.

The motion to amend failed on a hand count.

With no further motions to amend, the original motion on Article 5 passed on a voice vote.

ARTICLE 6. Town Roads and Maintenance Expendable Trust Fund

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$9,500 to add to the Town Roads Maintenance Expendable Trust Fund. (The Selectmen recommend adoption of this Warrant Article.) (Majority vote required.)

Ned Cutler moved that the Town raise and appropriate the sum of \$9,500 to add to the Town Roads Maintenance Expendable Trust Fund, motion seconded by Darrel Gearhart.

Ralph Brigida questioned the nomenclature of the article with respect to the word "and" in the article name but not in the description. Selectboard replied that they would confirm the legality with respect to that.

Denys Draper questioned what the money was to be used for and was answered that it was for the repair of town roads.

Ralph Brigida moved to amend the motioned amount to \$7500, seconded by Cliff Chippendale, stating that we had \$60,000 in the fund already. Trish O'Brien pointed out that one bad storm could do that much damage. Gary Harwood stated that Paine Rd. could be easily flooded and washed out. After other discussion Trish O'Brien moved the question, seconded by Darrel Gearhart and passed on a voice vote. The motion to amend the amount to \$7500 failed on a voice vote.

Back to the original motion, no further discussion, the motion passed on a voice vote.

ARTICLE 7. Expendable Trust Fund for Maintenance and Repair of Government Buildings

To see if the Town will vote to add \$10,000.00 to the Expendable Trust Fund for the maintenance and repair of government buildings. (The Selectmen recommend adoption of this Warrant Article.) (Majority vote required.)

Ned Cutler moved that the Town raise and appropriate \$10,000 to add to the Expendable Trust Fund for Maintenance and Repair of Government Buildings, motion seconded by Barbara Collier.

No Discussion. Motion passed on a voice vote

ARTICLE 8. Conservation Fund

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$500.00 to add to the Conservation Trust Fund. (The Selectmen recommend adoption of this Warrant Article.) (Majority vote required.)

Kevin O'Brien moved that the Town raise and appropriate the sum of \$500 to add to the Conservation Trust Fund.

No Discussion. Motion passed on a voice vote

ARTICLE 9. Expendable Trust Fund for Legal Fees Incurred Representing the Town's Position Regarding the Northern Pass Project

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$2,500.00 to be added to the Legal Expendable Trust Fund. (The Selectmen recommend adoption of this Warrant Article.) (Majority vote required.)

Ned Cutler moved that the town raise and appropriate the sum of \$2,500 to be added to the Legal Expendable Trust Fund, seconded by Steve Sabre.

Ralph Brigida questioned the amount and moved to amend the motion to the amount of \$1000, seconded by Cliff Chippendale.

Denys Draper stated that the amount has been consistently \$2500 and pointed out that Northern Pass was here now and we should be prepared. John Hynes questioned how much we had in the account and was answered \$5000. Several pointed out that this amount would not go far in a legal fight. Ralph Brigida questioned whether the Conservation Law organization would take up a legal fight and was answered that they would not in this case. Steve Sabre moved the question, seconded by Trish O'Brien and passed on a voice vote. The motion to amend failed on a voice vote.

Denys Draper moved to amend the motion to increase the amount to \$5000. There was no second.

The original motion passed on a voice vote.

Article 10. Fire Department Equipment Capital Reserve Fund

To see if the Town will vote to raise the sum of \$20,000 to add to the Easton Fire Department Equipment Capital Reserve Fund (established in March 1997) for the purchase of a new fire fighting replacement vehicle. (The Selectmen recommend adoption of this Warrant Article.) (Majority vote required.)

Kevin O'Brien moved that the Town raise the sum of \$20,000 to add to the Easton Fire Department Equipment Capital Reserve Fund (established in March 1997) for the purchase of a new fire fighting replacement vehicle. Seconded by Darrel Gearhart.

Ralph Brigida questioned the article as being for a vehicle where the purpose and title of the referenced reserve fund is equipment not vehicles. Also that the article was for a replacement vehicle, not an additional one. Selectman Ned Cutler explained that the article is to replace the old converted oil truck tanker. The Fire Department would keep the old tanker as a water backup. He further explained that since the chassis was procured from the Forest Service, by contractual agreement, it could not be sold by the Town. He went on to point out that a new tanker would cost between \$190,000 and \$200,000 and that it would be prudent to start putting money aside for it now.

A motion was made by Ralph Brigida to eliminate the wording "(established in March 1997)", seconded by Cliff Chippendale. Select Secretary Toni Woodruff pointed out that the wording of all of the articles were previously approved by the NH Dept. of Revenue Administration and probably should not be changed.

Ed O'Brien spoke in favor of the article, Denys Draper asked whether a new fund could be created at this meeting - the answer was no because it would not have been "warned" as required by law.

Much discussion ensued about Expendable Trusts vs. Capital Reserve Funds. Howard Pritham: "any reason the Town can't decide on it's own what's equipment...?"

The motion to change the wording was withdrawn by Ralph Brigida and Cliff Chippendale. The original motion passed on a voice vote.

Article 11. Forest Fire Reimbursement Expense Fund

To see if the Town will vote to create an Expendable Trust Fund for the purpose of Forest Fire Reimbursement as assessed by the State of New Hampshire and to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,000 to be placed in this Fund; furthermore to name the Selectmen as Agents to the Fund. (The Selectmen recommend adoption of this Warrant Article.) (Majority vote required.)

Ned Cutler moved that the Town create an Expendable Trust Fund for the purpose of Forest Fire Reimbursement as assessed by the State of New Hampshire and to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,000 to be placed in this Fund; furthermore to name the Selectmen as Agents to the Fund. Seconded by Darrel Gearhart. Cliff Chippendale questioned the purpose of the fund considering that the Town already has a Fire Dept. Ned Cutler explained that in the event of a serious forest fire in our Town, the State would be part of the response to battle the fire. The State then bills the community for it's manpower and equipment costs. The Town is required to pay 1/2 of those costs. If the forest fire occurs on Federal land, the Federal Government pays all of the costs.

The motion passed on a unanimous voice vote.

Article 12. Establishment of the Cooley-Jericho Community Forest

To see if the Town will vote to support the establishment of the Cooley-Jericho Community Forest in conjunction with neighboring communities and direct the Board of Selectmen to appoint a representative to such governing body as will be formed for the purpose of holding and managing the Community Forest. (The Selectmen recommend adoption of this Warrant Article.) (Majority vote required)

Moved by Kevin O'Brien that the Town vote to support the establishment of the Cooley-Jericho Community Forest in conjunction with neighboring communities and direct the Board of Selectmen to appoint a representative to such governing body as will be formed for the purpose of holding and managing the Community Forest. The motion was seconded by Steve Sabre who then spoke to the article referring to the Town's recently updated Master Plan survey showing that the majority of residents wanted to maintain the Town's rural character. Supporting this article would do that he said. Roy Stever spoke in favor of the article describing the parcel of land and noting the other towns involved. Cliff Chippendale questioned who would own the forest and was answered that it would be owned by ACT with representation from the 4 communities involved. Gary Harwood described it as a "once in a lifetime opportunity" to have a positive future impact for the area. Susan Schibanoff reminded the body that just a couple of years ago there was discussion to place windmills on the property and that supporting this article would protect the ridgeline. Bunny Ford questioned whether the Town would be responsible for the taxes on the property and was answered that the town would not be the owner and would not be responsible for the taxes. Cliff Chippendale motioned to move the question, seconded by Ralph Brigida. Motion to move passed on a voice vote.

The original motion was then passed on a voice vote.

Article 13. Community Forest Stewardship Fund

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the sum of \$5,000.00 from the surplus fund to place in a stewardship fund for the Community Forest. (The Selectmen recommend adoption of this Warrant Article.) (Majority vote required.)

Moved by Kevin O'Brien that the Town appropriate the sum of \$5,000 from the surplus fund to place in a stewardship fund for the Community Forest. Seconded by Ellen Pritham. Howard Pritham asked what the purpose of this fund was and was answered that it would go towards an endowment for the Community Forest. Ralph Brigida questioned how much money was now in the fund to purchase the forest and was answered that the \$600,000 purchase price was in hand now. This would go toward the remaining \$50,000 costs to complete the sale – surveys etc, and passing this article would entitle Easton to a share of future timber proceeds off the land.

The question was moved by Steve Sabre, seconded by Trish O'Brien and passed on a voice vote. The original motion was passed on a voice vote.

Article 14. Easton Sustainable Energy Policy

To see if the Town will vote to adopt the Easton Sustainable Energy Policy. The Policy outlines a voluntary plan for reduced municipal and residential energy usage by 2018 and 2025, through energy conservation measures and the use of alternative energy systems. The policy fulfills requirements specified in the Right to A Sustainable Energy future and Community Self-

Government Ordinance, enacted in March 2012 by unanimous vote, at Town Meeting. (The Selectmen recommend adoption of this Warrant Article.) (Majority vote required.)

Moved by Ned Cutler that the Town adopt the Easton Sustainable Energy Policy. The Policy outlines a voluntary plan for reduced municipal and residential energy usage by 2018 and 2025, through energy conservation measures and the use of alternative energy systems. The policy fulfills requirements specified in the Right to A Sustainable Energy future and Community Self-Government Ordinance, enacted in March 2012 by unanimous vote, at Town Meeting. Motion seconded by Sue Ford. Roy Stever spoke to the article explaining that the Ordinance required the Town to establish an energy policy in terms of usage and conservation. Ralph Brigida questioned what alternative energy systems meant. Mr. Stever replied with a few examples solar, geothermal, personal use systems. Steve Sabre added that this was purely on a voluntary basis. Frank Woodruff questioned why the Town should have any involvement in personal energy decisions and was answered that this was put into place with the passing of the ordinance and reiterated that any personal alternative energy use was truly voluntary, not required by the town. After much other discussion, the motion passed on a voice vote.

Article 15. Discontinuance of the Cemetery Expendable Trust Fund

To see if the Town will vote to discontinue the Cemetery Expendable Trust Fund with said funds and any accumulated interest to date to be placed in the Town's General Fund. (The Selectmen recommend adoption of this Warrant Article.) (Majority vote required.)

Moved by Kevin O'Brien that the Town discontinue the Cemetery Expendable Trust Fund with said funds and any accumulated interest to date to be placed in the Town's General Fund. Seconded by Denys Draper. Ed O'Brien asked what was left in the fund and was answered that \$1500 was left from the completed cemetery repairs. Motion was passed on a unanimous voice vote.

Article 16. To Act Upon Any Other Business That May Legally Come Before This Meeting.

Kevin O'Brien, on behalf of the Town and the Board, expressed thanks and gratitude to outgoing Selectman Tom Boucher, for his 6 years of above and beyond dedication and conscientious service to the Town as a Selectman. All present agreed with a very hearty applause for Tom.

With no further business, a motion to adjourn was passed. Meeting adjourned at 8:50pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Bob Thibault
Town Clerk

