



Town of Amherst Voter Guide

Please bring this with you to the polls on

March 8, 2016

at Souhegan High School between 6AM and 8PM

Dear Amherst Citizens:

This document, offered by your Board of Selectmen (BOS), is provided to help you better understand what each article on the warrant is proposing to accomplish in fiscal year 2017.

The strategic planning process, first initiated two years ago, helped set the stage for developing a 2016-17 plan and budget. This plan and budget ensure that all facets of the Town's governance operate as efficiently as possible, and maintains and upgrades all areas of our Town's operations.

All department heads were tasked with updating the strategic plans they had previously developed, not only to advance the vision, but to aid the Selectmen in identifying strategic initiatives that deserved funding in the upcoming budget cycle. These initiatives were carefully considered by the Board, discussed publicly at many meetings, and shared with the Ways and Means Committee for analysis and comment. Each department's plan can be viewed on the Town's website. Because effective town governance can only occur with a clear vision of where Amherst is today and where residents want it to be in the years ahead, the BOS views the process as essential to good governance.

This year the municipal portion of the total Amherst tax bill is just over 20%. Amherst has the seventh lowest municipal tax rate of the 31 towns in Hillsborough County. That said, the BOS believe judicious, targeted funding will help balance all facets of town life, even as the major investment in roads and bridges brings this crucial infrastructure back in line. The key areas include, but are not limited to:

- 1.) Public Safety,*
- 2.) Infrastructure,*
- 3.) Environment/Landscapes,*
- 4.) Historic Heritage,*
- 5.) Economic Development,*
- 6.) Recreation, and*
- 7.) Education. (While education is the primary responsibility of the schools, the Town offers educational programs through Fire, Police, Library and Recreation.)*

For more information on the Strategic Planning process, visit our website at <http://www.amherstnh.gov/board-selectmen>.

We encourage you to become educated on all the issues, make your informed decisions, and please come to the Souhegan High School on Tuesday, March 8th to cast your vote.

We would like to express our sincere appreciation to our employees, our Ways and Means Committee, and the citizens who participated in the process that has produced the warrant that is before you. We could not have been as effective without everyone's help and participation. We would also like to thank you for the opportunity to represent you, and we appreciate your support as we work together to keep Amherst a great community to live in.

Sincerely,

The Board of Selectmen

Dwight Brew, Chairman

Tom Grella, Selectman

John D'Angelo, Vice Chairman

Reed Panasiti, Selectman

Nate Jensen, Clerk

2016 Proposed Warrant Articles

Amherst residents will have an opportunity to vote on the proposed budget and other Town matters on Tuesday, March 8, 2016, at the annual election to be held between 6:00 AM and 8:00 PM. There is one polling place in Amherst: Souhegan High School at 412 Boston Post Road.

The following information is provided as a public service to enable citizens to better understand the matters on which they will be voting. Additional information may be obtained by calling the Town Administrator's Office at (603) 673-6041, or by visiting the Town's website at www.amherstnh.gov.

ARTICLE 21: To choose all necessary Town Officers for the ensuing terms as follows:

2 Selectmen for 3 Years

1 Moderator for 2 Years

1 Cemetery Trustee for 3 Years

3 Library Trustees for 3 Years

1 Supervisor of the Checklist for 6 Years

1 Trustee of the Trust Funds for 3 Years

1 Zoning Board of Adjustment Member for 1 Year

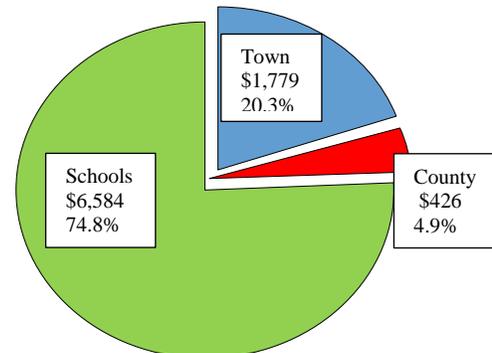
1 Zoning Board of Adjustment Member for 3 Years

ARTICLE 22: Operating Budget

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate as an operating budget, not including appropriations by special warrant articles and other appropriations voted separately, the amounts set forth on the budget posted with the warrant or as amended by vote of the first session, for the purposes set forth herein, totaling **\$12,896,109**. Should this article be defeated the default budget shall be **\$12,596,564** which is the same as last year with certain adjustments required by previous action of the Town or by law; or the governing body may hold one special meeting in accordance with RSA 40:13 X and XVI to take up the issue of a revised operating budget only. This operating budget warrant article does not include appropriations contained in ANY other Warrant Article. (Majority vote)

(The Board of Selectmen supports this article by a vote of 5-0-0.) (The Ways and Means Committee supports this article by a vote of 6-0-0.) This article has an estimated tax impact of \$0.16 (sixteen cents per thousand).

FY17 Tax Apportionment



FY 2017 proposed budget is **\$12,896,109**

The Board of Selectmen worked closely with our Department Heads and Ways & Means Committee in preparing this year's proposed budget. The proposed budget is \$468,295 or 3.768% higher than the current budget. The 3.768% is made up of 1.67% Road Reconstruction Bond, 0.24% Fire Rescue Pay Adjustments, 0.25% Police CBA, and 1.61% for the remaining town government functions. The proposed budget will add \$139 per year to the tax bill of the average home in Amherst.

In building the FY17 operating budget we began by including the costs mandated by contract: the third year of our three year labor agreement with the police union and our obligation to start paying for the road construction from the last paving season.

We then included continuing strategic initiatives started in FY14 & 15:

The third year of a three year initiative to increase the pay for both our call firefighters and EMS staff now merged in a single department called Fire Rescue. We will now be paying these employees comparable to surrounding communities. The second year of a two year initiative in the DPW to fully fund an Assistant Director/Environmental Programs Coordinator to focus on requirements mandated by the US Environmental Protection Agency and the NH Department of Environmental

Services and to assist in the overall management of the department.

This budget includes funding for what we call global assumptions; to ensure all departments in the town budget the same for costs occurring town wide.

We are planning to give our employees a 2% cost of living wage adjustment and for those who are eligible, a step increase. We have a “not to exceed” commitment from our health insurance provider of a projected rate increase of 8.75% for employee health insurance. Our employees will be contributing an additional 2% more towards the total premium for health insurance.

We took a hard look at fuels and have budgeted less money than we actually spent in FY14.

Similarly, we are looking at a slight reduction in our utilities because of our participation in a bulk purchasing co-op with neighboring towns through the Nashua Regional Planning Commission.

The following is an overview of new strategic initiatives funded in the proposed operating budget.

In the Community Development Department \$5,300 is included for a professional consultant to assist us with a sewer feasibility study. There is funding for an additional employee to take on the role as a Planner. The Planner will free up our Director to pursue initiatives related to community development, economic development, and regulatory updates, as well as NED pipeline issues.

The Communications Center saw an increase of \$30,625 related to employees changing healthcare plans.

The Fire Department budget increase is related to an additional health care plan for the new captain position. The captain position was funded by the elimination of the EMS Director position.

The Recreation Department increase is due to an amendment of the pay grade for the Recreation Director, placing him at the same level of other Town department heads.

Proposed FY17 Operating Budget Breakdown

Department of Public Works	\$ 4,274,979
Public Safety	\$ 3,987,616
Town & General Government Adm.	\$ 1,587,398
Library	\$ 881,950
Community Development	\$ 385,579
Debt Service	\$ 1,383,410
Recreation & Culture	\$ 324,975
Welfare & Health Agencies	\$ 70,202
Total:	\$ 12,896,109

ARTICLE 23: Contingency Fund

Shall the Town vote to establish a contingency fund for the current year, in accordance with NH RSA Section 31:98-a, for unanticipated expenses that may arise and further to raise and appropriate one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) to go into the fund. Said sum shall come from the undesignated fund balance and no amount to be raised from taxation. Any appropriation left in the fund at the end of the year will lapse to the general fund. (Majority vote)

(The Board of Selectmen supports this article by a vote of 5-0-0.) (The Ways and Means Committee supports this article by a vote of 6-0-0.) This article has an estimated tax impact of \$ 0.00 (zero cents per thousand).

In August of 2013 a new law regarding contingency funding came into effect (RSA 31:98-a). This law outlines the process the Selectmen must follow with regard to the establishment of a contingency fund.

By approving this article you will be giving the Selectmen the authority to withdraw up to \$100,000 from the undesignated fund balance, if some unforeseen circumstance should arise. The DRA has determined that this article will not have an impact on your property taxes.

ARTICLE 24: Assessing Revaluation Capital Reserve Fund

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000) to be added to the Assessing Revaluation Capital Reserve Fund previously established. (Majority vote)

(The Board of Selectmen supports this article by a vote of 5-0-0.) (The Ways and Means Committee supports this article by a vote of 6-0-0.) This article has an estimated tax impact of \$00.02 (two cents per thousand). The Assessing Revaluation CRF balance: \$83,134 as of December 31, 2015.

This article adds \$25,000 to the existing Capital Reserve Fund that has been established to budget for the state mandated reassessment of all properties in Amherst. This capital reserve fund was first established in March 9, 2004.

The estimated withdrawal period will be April 2016 – October 2016 based upon the percentage of the revaluation completed. We estimate the cost of the upcoming revaluation to be approximately \$101,000.

ARTICLE 25: Communications Center Capital Reserve Fund

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000) to be added to the Communications Center Capital Reserve Fund previously established. (Majority vote)

(The Board of Selectmen supports this article by a vote of 5-0-0.) (The Ways and Means Committee supports this article by a vote of 6-0-0.)

This article has an estimated tax impact of \$00.02 (two cents per thousand). The Communication CRF balance: \$41,031 as of December 31, 2015.

This fund was established in 2006. Its purpose is to fund major emergency equipment repairs and upgrades and it was designed to also fund anticipated future projects such as radio tower replacement in 2020 and radio console replacement in 2023 (combined estimated cost of \$180,000). It also serves as a source of matching funds for state and federal communications grant projects.

\$34,116 has been expended from the fund for those purposes in the last three years.

ARTICLE 26: Fire Station Renovation Capital Reserve Fund

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of sixty-five thousand dollars (**\$65,000**) to be added to the Fire Station Renovation Capital Reserve Fund previously established. (Majority vote)

(The Board of Selectmen supports this article by a vote of 5-0-0.) (The Ways and Means Committee supports this article by a vote of 6-0-0.) This article has an estimated tax impact of \$00.04 (four cents per thousand). The Fire Station Renovation CRF balance: \$55,016 as of December 31, 2015.

In 2015, a capital reserve fund (CRF) was established for the purpose of finishing the second floor of our Central Fire Station for our Fire Rescue personnel. The plan is to build sleeping quarters, a small kitchen, shower and rest room facilities on the second floor which is currently unfinished.

ARTICLE 27: Appropriation of Previously Collected Land Use Change Tax Funds and Deposit to the Fire Station Renovation Capital Reserve Fund

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of sixty thousand dollars (\$60,000), said sum to be the amount collected in the preceding fiscal year and deposited into the Land Use Change Tax Fund (LUCT), and deposit said amount into the Fire Station Renovation Capital Reserve Fund previously established. (Majority vote)

(The Board of Selectmen supports this article by a vote of 5-0-0.) (The Ways and Means Committee supports this article by a vote of 6-0-0.) This article has an estimated tax impact of \$00.00 (zero cents per thousand).

Similar to Article 26, this article also seeks to add to the capital reserve fund established to finish the second floor of the fire station. We are asking the voters' permission to transfer \$60,000 from the Land

Use Change Tax (LUCT) fund into the Fire Station Renovation Capital Reserve Fund. LUCT monies cannot be used for any purpose without approval of the legislative body; the voters in town.

ARTICLE 28: Fire Truck Refurbish and Purchase Capital Reserve Fund

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of one hundred fifty thousand dollars (**\$150,000**) to be added to the Fire Truck /Refurbish and Purchase Capital Reserve Fund, previously established. (Majority vote)

(The Board of Selectmen supports this article by a vote of 5-0-0.) (The Ways and Means Committee supports this article by a vote of 6-0-0.) This article has an estimated tax impact of \$00.10 (ten cents per thousand). The Fire Truck CRF balance: \$442,080 as of December 31, 2015.

In 1999, this capital reserve fund was established to purchase, maintain and refurbish our fire apparatus. We are looking to add \$150,000 to the fund. The next fire truck we are looking to replace is Engine 5, a 1991 pumper.

ARTICLE 29: Change of Purpose, Bridge Replacement Capital Reserve Fund

Shall the Town vote to change the purpose of the existing Bridge Replacement Capital Reserve Fund under the provisions of RSA 35:16, to the Bridge Repair and Replacement Capital Reserve Fund, and further, to name the Board of Selectmen as agents to expend. (2/3 vote required)

(The Board of Selectmen supports this article by a vote of 5-0-0.) (The Ways and Means Committee supports this article by a vote of 6-0-0.) This article has an estimated tax impact of \$00.00 (zero cents per thousand).

This article seeks to change the purpose of the existing Bridge Replacement Capital Reserve Fund established in 2010. In order to change the purpose of a capital reserve fund, the Selectmen need the approval of the voters. Our goal in requesting this change is to provide more flexibility with the use of this fund. As written we can only withdraw money from this capital reserve fund if we are replacing a bridge. We would like to be able to draw from this fund to repair our bridges. The more bridges we have the opportunity to repair, the fewer we'll need to replace.

ARTICLE 30: Bridge Repair and Replacement Capital Reserve Fund

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of twenty-five thousand (\$25,000) to be added to the Bridge Repair and Replacement Capital Reserve Fund previously established. In the event Article 29 does not pass, this amount will be added to the

existing Bridge Replacement Capital Reserve Fund. (Majority vote)

(The Board of Selectmen supports this article by a vote of 5-0-0.) (The Ways and Means Committee supports this article by a vote of 6-0-0.) This article has an estimated tax impact of \$00.02 (two cents per thousand). The Bridge Replacement CRF balance: \$20,115 as of December 31, 2015.

If you agree and vote in favor of Article 29, requesting to change the purpose to a bridge repair and replacement capital reserve fund, we are asking to deposit \$25,000 into it. If Article 29 does not pass we are asking that the \$25,000 be deposited into the existing Bridge Replacement Capital Reserve Fund.

ARTICLE 31: Open Space Land, Conservation Commission

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the gross sum of one million dollars (\$1,000,000) of which four hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$450,000) is to be raised by taxation, to be placed into the conservation fund of the Amherst Conservation Commission for the purchase of land only for open space purposes to meet conservation needs on the following conditions as more particularly set forth in Warrant Article 31:

- A. No more than \$450,000 is to be raised by direct taxation. The balance to be raised by available public or private gifts which the Selectmen are authorized to apply for and expend, and/or, payment for the conveyance by the Selectmen to the Piscataquog Land Conservancy of a conservation easement to perpetually restrict use of the property to conservation purposes and the Selectmen are authorized to grant such easement,
- B. The funds shall only be used for the purchase of all or part of the parcels of land known as Map 6, Lot 102, Map 4, Lot 119, and Map 4, Lot 121,
- C. The completion of the purchase agreement regarding those properties no later than May 3, 2016, to the satisfaction of the Selectmen and Conservation Commission providing for a final closing no later than March 31, 2017,
- D. Any expenditure from the conservation fund shall be compliant with public hearing requirements and approved by the Selectmen.

This appropriation and authorization shall be null and void if the conditions set forth above do not occur as required. All as more particularly in amended Article 31 set forth in the Town Warrant.

(The Board of Selectmen supports this article by a vote of 5-0-0.) (The Ways and Means Committee

supports this article by a vote of 6-0-0.) This article has a one-time estimated tax impact of \$00.29 (twenty-nine cents per thousand).

This article seeks approval of a one-time appropriation of \$450,000 that would go towards the purchase of 227 acres of undeveloped land between Spring, County and Upham Roads in Amherst. The property overlies one of Amherst's highest yielding groundwater aquifers, and provides recharge to nearby residential drinking water wells.

The land came to the attention of the Amherst Conservation Commission (ACC) in late December 2015, when they learned the property was on the market. A bidding process was slated to begin in mid-January. The Commission contacted the Piscataquog Land Conservancy (PLC), a non-profit land trust based in New Boston, serving the 23 communities in southern New Hampshire which encompass the watersheds of the Piscataquog, Souhegan and Nashua Rivers, to see if the group could investigate the opportunity.

In just five weeks, PLC and the Town were able to establish that the property was worthy of conservation, arrange for the appraisal to get its market value, negotiate a purchase price and get a signed agreement between PLC and the private landowners to hold the property off the market for 90 days while town voters decide whether to approve the \$450,000 warrant article.

Along with safeguarding drinking water, protecting the land would protect surface water, wetlands and vernal pools which provide flood storage, aquatic habitat and ground water recharge. The land also has potential for the development of recreational trails, including a potential "safe routes to school" pathway from Amherst Village to Souhegan High School.

The land's hemlock-hardwood-pine forest is critical habitat for animals like deer, bobcat, fishers, roughed grouse, and purple finch. This land is immediately across Spring Road from the Town's Pond Parish conservation area, and is close to other town lands to the north and east that are part of a larger wildlife corridor extending two miles to the Town of Merrimack's Grater Woods conservation area.

The total cost of the purchase would be \$1,000,000, \$450,000 of this amount would come from Amherst taxpayers if the article passes. The Piscataquog Land Conservancy would bring another \$500,000 to the purchase via public and private grants and local fundraising. The final \$50,000 would come from existing ACC conservation funds.

If all the funds for the acquisition are raised, the purchase would close in the first quarter of 2017.

The Town of Amherst would take ownership of the land, subject to a conservation easement held by PLC. The easement is an additional guarantee that the land will remain in conservation in perpetuity, and be managed by the town in a way that protects its natural resource values.

The Amherst Conservation Commission is a state-sanctioned organization chartered to protect open space and the natural resources therein. The ACC manages 2,600 acres of conservation land, approximately 13% of the town. It stewards over 25 miles of trails, conducts planned forest harvests and manages seven meadows to improve wildlife habitat, provides water quality expertise for plans and permits, and conducts an aggressive invasives mitigation program.

ARTICLE 32: Maintenance Garage Construction Project

Shall the town vote to establish a Maintenance Garage Construction Project Capital Reserve Fund under the provisions of RSA 35:1 for the purpose of building a town vehicle maintenance garage and to raise and appropriate the sum of one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) to be placed in said fund and further, to name the Board of Selectmen as agents to expend from said fund. (Majority Vote)

(The Board of Selectmen supports this article by a vote of 4-1-0.) (The Ways and Means Committee supports this article by a vote of 6-0-0.) This article has an estimated tax impact of \$00.06 (six cents per thousand).

This article seeks to establish a capital reserve fund for a vehicle maintenance garage so that town vehicles can be serviced in an environment conducive to efficient and cost effective delivery of mechanic services. The mechanic working in a small DPW garage maintains 18 DPW vehicles, performs basic maintenance on seven police cruisers, five recreation vehicles and one community development vehicle.

The Capital Improvement Plan Committee supports this project and recommends it be funded in fiscal year 2017.

ARTICLE 33: Old Mail Road from Class VI to Class B Trail

Shall the Town vote to reclassify segments of the Class VI roadway known as Old Mail Road, commencing at its intersection with Winterberry Drive thence northerly approximately 3,220± feet to the southeasterly corner of the parcel of land identified as Lot 10-61-1 on the Tax Maps of the Town; and commencing at the intersection of New South Road thence northerly approximately 1,400± feet to the intersection with Horace Greeley Road

from a Class VI Road to a Class B trail in accordance with RSA 231-A:3. (Majority vote)

(The Board of Selectmen supports this article by a vote of 5-0-0.) This article has an estimated tax impact of \$00.00 (zero cents per thousand).

As a Class VI roadway, Old Mail Road is a public highway that is not maintained by the Town. By reclassifying Old Mail Road as a Class B trail, full public right of way is maintained, subject to public trail use restrictions. The trail will no longer have the status of a public street, and may not be used for vehicular access. The Town is able to use municipal funds to maintain a Class B Trail.

ZONING WARRANT ARTICLES

ARTICLE 34: Mobile Homes & Trailers

Are you in favor of adopting Amendment No. 1 as proposed by the Planning Board as follows?

To amend Sections 3.6 of the Zoning Ordinance, Mobile Homes & Trailers, clarifying that unoccupied recreational vehicles may be stored in all zones, allowing temporary occupancy of a recreational vehicle by a person for whom a residence is being built on the property, and allowing limited temporary occupancy of a recreation vehicle on a property for non-paying guests of the property owner.

(The Planning Board voted 6-0-0 to support this article)

Currently, storage of recreational vehicles is permitted in all areas of Town. This amendment clarifies that this refers to unoccupied recreational vehicles. The amendment includes a provision to allow the temporary occupancy of a registered recreational vehicle during construction by a person for whom a residence is being built on the property, subject to approval by the Zoning Administrator, and will allow property owners to permit guests to occupy recreational vehicles on a limited basis.

ARTICLE 35: Proposed Text Amendment Changes for Consistency with 2015 Amendments

Are you in favor of adopting Amendment No. 2 as proposed by the Planning Board as follows?

To amend Sections 4.3.A.7, 4.5.B.7 and 4.16.E of the Zoning Ordinance for text amendments and reference updates consistent with Zoning Amendments approved by the Town in 2015.

(The Planning Board voted 6-0-0 to support this article)

In 2015, the Town adopted an amended Workforce Housing Ordinance and Integrated Innovative Housing Ordinance. The amendment now proposed will correct superseded references to "Affordable"

housing and will update Section references. These changes are non-substantive.

ARTICLE 36: Personal Wireless Service Facilities

Are you in favor of adopting Amendment No. 3 as proposed by the Planning Board as follows?

To amend Section 3.16.E of the Zoning Ordinance, Personal Wireless Service Facilities, to eliminate the requirement for site plan review for co-location of antennas on an existing telecommunications tower. This change is proposed to bring the ordinance into compliance with RSA 12K:10.

(The Planning Board voted 6-0-0 to support this article)

A 2013 change in State law expressly exempt existing telecommunications towers from site plan review for co-location of antennas on an existing tower. The proposed amendment will make the Zoning Ordinance consistent with State statute.

ARTICLE 37: Elderly Housing Density

Are you in favor of adopting Amendment No. 4 as proposed by the Planning Board as follows:

To amend Section 4.20A of the Zoning Ordinance, Elderly Housing to delete the minimum net tract area for elderly housing developments.

(The Planning Board voted 6-0-0 to support this article)

In 2015, adoption of the Integrated Innovative Housing Ordinance (IIHO) provided a new structure for density calculations for all innovative housing types, including elderly housing developments. The proposed amendment will eliminate an unintended additional density bonus for elderly housing developments above and beyond density allowed under the IIHO ordinance.

ARTICLE 38: Board of Adjustment

Are you in favor of adopting Amendment No. 5 as proposed by the Planning Board as follows:

To amend Section 6.3 of the Zoning Ordinance, Zoning Board of Adjustment, to eliminate the requirement that a member of the Zoning Board shall hold no other elected municipal office, to formalize the authority of the Zoning Board to appoint up to five alternates as provided in RSA 673:6 II-a and to make the conditions for granting a variance consistent with State statute.

(The Planning Board voted 6-0-0 to support this article)

Currently, Zoning Board members may not hold any other elected office in the Town, limiting the pool of potential Board members. This amendment will

eliminate that requirement, and also affirm the statutory authority of the Zoning Board to appoint alternate members. The Amendment also corrects obsolete criteria for the conditions for granting a variance which have been superseded by changes in State law.

ARTICLE 39: Administration

Are you in favor of adopting Amendment No. 6 as proposed by the Planning Board as follows:

To amend Section 6.1 of the Zoning Ordinance, Administration, to correct formatting errors and update the organization of this section.

(The Planning Board voted 6-0-0 to support this article)

Over time, as the Zoning Ordinance has been amended, formatting and organizational errors have presented the potential for misinterpretation in the administration and application of the Zoning Ordinance. The proposed amendment is a non-substantive change that is organizational only.

ARTICLE 40: Recreational Uses

Are you in favor of adopting Amendment No. 7 as proposed by the Planning Board as follows:

To amend Sections 4.3.A.8, 4.4.B.7, 4.5.B.8, 4.6.B.4, 4.7.A.7, 4.8.A.10, 4.9.A.17, Section 4.7.B.1, Section 4.9.A.14 to permit non-commercial sports and recreation uses in all zones in the Town, subject to site plan review by the Planning Board. And to amend Section 9.1, Definitions, to insert definitions for non-commercial and commercial recreational uses.

(The Planning Board voted 6-0-0 to support this article)

Currently, non-commercial recreation is only permitted as an accessory use in residential zones. The proposed amendment creates definitions for non-commercial and commercial recreation and allows non-commercial, not-for-profit recreational uses in all zones in Town. Commercial recreational uses will continue to be permitted by right in the Industrial Zone and permitted by Special Exception in the Commercial Zone.

ARTICLE 41: Temporary Sign Standards

Are you in favor of adopting Amendment No. 8 as proposed by the Planning Board as follows:

To amend Section 3.4.D of the Zoning Ordinance, Temporary Signage by deleting the current language and replacing it with new temporary language that provides consistency in the temporary sign allowance for businesses, community organizations and individuals.

(The Planning Board voted 6-0-0 to support this article)

A recent Supreme Court ruling has had implications for the way that municipalities regulate signs. In order to treat all businesses and organizations consistently, and to address concerns directed to the Community Development Office by the businesses and community organizations, a uniform standard for temporary signage is being proposed.

ARTICLE 42: WITHDRAWN

This warrant article has been withdrawn by the Planning Board. The article number has been retained so as not to disturb the numeric sequence of the remaining articles.

ARTICLE 43: Accessory Apartments

Are you in favor of adopting Amendment No. 9 as proposed by the Planning Board as follows:

To amend Sections 4.3, 4.4, 4.5, 4.7 and 4.8 of the Zoning Ordinance to add accessory apartments as a permitted use in the zones where they are currently permitted by special exception.

(The Planning Board voted 6-0-0 to support this article)

Currently, accessory apartments are allowed by special exception in all residential zones in Town. The proposed amendment would make accessory apartments a permitted use, eliminating the need for application to the Zoning Board of Adjustment. The current criteria for size and configuration of accessory apartments will remain the same, and will be administered by the Building Official and Zoning Administrator rather than the ZBA.

Amherst March 8, 2016 Warrant Articles:

Please use this guide to assist you as you cast your vote on Tuesday, March 8, 2016. The following pages provide a brief overview of the intent of each warrant article presented. Please bring this sheet with you to the polls on Tuesday, March 8, 2016, at Souhegan High School - 412 Boston Post Road between the hours of 6:00 AM and 8:00 PM.

TOWN WARRANT ARTICLES

YES NO

ARTICLE 22: Operating Budget		
ARTICLE 23: Contingency Fund		
ARTICLE 24: Assessing Revaluation Capital Reserve Fund		
ARTICLE 25: Communications Center Capital Reserve		
ARTICLE 26: Fire Station Renovation Capital Reserve Fund		
ARTICLE 27: Appropriation of Previously Collected Land Use Change Tax Funds and Deposit to the Fire Station Renovation Capital Reserve Fund		
ARTICLE 28: Fire Truck Refurbish Capital Reserve Fund		
ARTICLE 29: Change of Purpose, Bridge Replacement Capital Reserve Fund		
ARTICLE 30: Bridge Repair and Replacement Capital Reserve Fund		
ARTICLE 31: Open Space Land, Conservation Commission		
ARTICLE 32: Maintenance Garage Construction Project		
ARTICLE 33: Old Mail Road from Class VI to Class B Trail		

Zoning Warrant Articles

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ARTICLE 35: Proposed Text Amendment Changes for Consistency with 2015 Amendments		
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ARTICLE 42: <u>WITHDRAWN</u>		
ARTICLE 43: Accessory Apartments		