



2020 Town of Pelham Voters' Guide

The Board of Selectmen is pleased to present our residents with the Voter's Guide to assist all voters who plan to visit the polls on Tuesday, March 10th, 2020 at Pelham High School between the hours of 7:00am and 8:00pm. Please note that voter turnout can be quite high during peak hours, so please be sure to follow posted directions and traffic patterns to ensure the safety of all parties.

The purpose of this guide is to help you, the voter, make informed decisions as you cast your ballot. The way the Town operates and how much it spends is determined by you, the voters. Please note that the State's, "No means no" law prohibits the Town from spending any funds for the purposes described in the articles you are voting on, should the majority vote "no". The sole exemption is Article 7, the Town Budget. Please refer to Article 7 for explanation.

We strongly encourage you to vote on March 10th and would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued civic participation and to remind you that, regardless of outcome, we move forward together, as the Town of Pelham.

Sincerely,

Pelham Board of Selectmen

William McDevitt, Chair- 2020

Doug Viger, Vice Chair- 2020

Heather Forde- 2021

Kevin Cote- 2022

Hal Lynde- 2022

**Town of Pelham
State of New Hampshire
2020 Town Meeting**

To the inhabitants of the Town of Pelham, in the County of Hillsborough and the State of New Hampshire, qualified to vote in Town affairs. You are hereby notified of the following annual Town Meeting Schedule:

FIRST SESSION OF ANNUAL MEETING (DELIBERATIVE)

You are hereby notified to meet at the Sherburne Hall, 6 Village Green, Pelham, New Hampshire on Tuesday, February 4th at 7:00PM. This session shall consist of explanation, discussion, and debate of warrant articles numbered 2-17. Warrant articles may be amended subject to the following limitations: (a) warrant articles the wording of which is prescribed by law shall not be amended and (b) warrant articles that are amended shall be placed on the official ballot for a final vote on the main motion, as amended.

**SECOND SESSION OF ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
(OFFICIAL BALLOT VOTING)**

You are hereby notified to meet again at the Pelham High School, 85 Marsh Road, Pelham, New Hampshire on Tuesday, March 10th, 2020 between the hours of 7:00AM and 8:00PM to vote by official ballot to choose all necessary town officials for the ensuing year and to vote on warrant articles numbered 1-17.

-A Citizen's Guide to Understanding Terms-

Appropriations: A sum of money or total of assets devoted to a specific purpose.

Article: Individual numbered items within the warrant.

Budget Committee: An elected body of eleven (11) individuals which reviews and elects to approve or not approve all town and school budgets, as well as any and all articles involving the expenditure of funds. The budgets presented are prepared by the Budget Committee.

CBA: A Collective Bargaining Agreement is a contract between a group of employees (police, fire, or other municipal employees) and the Board of Selectmen, cost items of which are approved by the voters.

Capital Reserve Fund: Essentially a “savings account” created by action of a prior town meeting vote into which funds are placed for a designated purpose, but limited to capital expenditures- such as a piece of major equipment, building, etc.

Conservation Commission: A group of appointed officials tasked with “the proper utilization and protection of the natural resources of the Town, per RSA 36-A:2

Forestry Committee: An appointed group of five (5) members who volunteer to plan, preserve, and protect public, forested lands (forests, parks, open space, water courses, wetlands) and the wildlife therein. They often work in conjunction with the Conservation Committee, Planning, the Board of Selectmen, as well as with Parks and Recreation.

IDDE Ordinance: (Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination) is an EPA mandate that requires towns to survey, test, and protect their water sources from illicit discharges to protect natural resources and preserve healthy drinking water.

Map/Lot: This designates the exact location of a parcel of land on the Town tax map.

NHDES: New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services.

Non-Capital Reserve Fund: The same “savings account” concept as a capital reserve fund, but not specifically tied to buildings or equipment.

RSA: Refers to a state law- Revised Statute Annnotated. These laws can be found on the State of New Hampshire’s website under “Laws and Rules”.

Special Warrant Article: As provided in State law, this designation identifies any appropriation in the article as non-lapsing (having no expiration date) and non-transferable (not to be used for anything other than the specific expressed purpose).

Unassigned Fund Balance: The accumulation of revenues over expenditures, accrued over the years. It can be used for any purpose voted on by the Board of Selectmen (with approval) and has been used to offset tax increases as well as to offset the cost of “big ticket” projects, such as the fire station.

Warrant: The official legal name for a group of articles presented to the voters.

Article 1 – Election of Officers

To see what action the Town will take in the election of the following Officers: two (2) Selectmen for a term of three (3) years; one (1) Town Moderator for a term of two (2) years; two (2) Cemetery Trustees for a term of three (3) years; one (1) Trustee of the Trust Funds for a term of three (3) years; two (2) Library Trustees for a term of three (3) years, three (3) Budget Committee Members for a term of three (3) years, two (2) Planning Board Members for a term of three (3) years; one Planning Board Member for a term of one (1) year.

Article 2 – Zoning Amendment

Are you in favor of adopting Amendment No. 1 as proposed by the Pelham Planning Board for the Town of Pelham to change Pelham Zoning Article XII *Special Exceptions* to allow Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs) to be a maximum of 1,000 square feet (increased from 800), and to eliminate the - common wall requirement. ADUs shall not be allowed on lots of less than one acre unless the lots are within an approved Conservation Subdivision or within the Mixed-Use Zoning District where the Planning Board has approved smaller lots under their authority over Innovative Land Use Projects. Detached ADUs will be allowed when the Planning board approves them with a conditional use permit after verifying the lot is at least 1.5 acres in size with a minimum of 45,000 square feet of contiguous non-wetland soils. The Planning board will

have the authority to determine the placement of a detached ADU within the property. (Recommended by the Planning Board).

Article 2 Explanation: *The purpose of this amendment is to expand the mix of affordable housing opportunities throughout the Town by permitting the creation of secondary dwelling residences as an accessory use to existing single-family detached dwellings while maintaining the visual character of single-family residential neighborhoods. ADUs can provide options for aging homeowners to derive income from an ADU that they can rent or occupy themselves increasing opportunities for elderly residents to remain living on their property with independence and dignity. ADUs can provide space for single parents, recent college graduates saddled with significant college loan debt, caregivers and disabled persons. The proposed zoning change preserves the existing path for approval of attached ADUs through the Zoning Board Special Exception process and it adds an alternative path to seek Planning Board Conditional Use approval for a detached ADU. The Planning Board would verify the 1.5 acre lot sizing and non-wetland soils requirements are met as part of their review and would be able to consider input from applicants and abutters regarding the best placement of a detached ADU, including potential buffering from abutting properties whether the proposed detached ADU is stand-alone or part of an out building such as a garage. The Planning Board feels the increase in allowable size from a maximum of 800 square feet to 1,000 square feet would provide the opportunity for a modest increase in living area, but all ADUs would remain limited to no more than two bedrooms and in no case would more than one ADU be allowed on any individual lot.*

Article 3 – Planning Board

Are you in favor of adopting Amendment No. 2 as proposed by the Planning Board for the Town of Pelham to replace in its entirety, the existing Illicit Discharge and Connection Ordinance (IDDE Article VIII-I) with a revised IDDE ordinance that will comply with the Federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) mandate to control storm water runoff and its negative impacts to drinking water, ecosystems and wildlife. The proposed amendment clearly defines what are acceptable water discharges and those that are defined as illicit discharges and how the Town can regulate and enforce any illicit discharges. (Recommended by the Planning Board)

Article 3 Explanation: *The Environmental Protection Agency has issued a mandate that all towns and municipalities within designated areas throughout the US are to develop stormwater management plans including extensive mapping and testing of outfalls. Pelham has over 300 outfalls which are where stormwater is captured by drainage structures and directed to wetlands and eventually into streams, rivers and ponds. The EPA mandate includes the requirement for Pelham to conduct dry weather sampling to identify illicit discharges and to trace them back to the source of the discharge. The mandate also requires municipalities to enforce and correct any illicit discharges. This proposed zoning article provides clarity and a path forward to meet that obligation including working with the BOS to develop a fine schedule that can be applied to motivate any identified illicit dischargers to stop the activity and to mitigate the damage caused by their illicit discharge.*

Article 4 – Citizen Petition

Are you in favor of repealing, in its entirety, Pelham Zoning Ordinance Article XV, Residential Conservation Subdivision by Special Permit as proposed by citizen petition? The effect of the repeal would be to eliminate the building of subdivisions that would allow “cluster” style developments where houses are built closer together (on less than the required 1 acre of property) in exchange for open space land. (Not recommended by the Planning Board).

Article 4 Outcomes

The Board of Selectmen does not explain citizen’s petition articles, as we do not want to misrepresent or misstate what the petitioner had intended. However, the outcomes for a yes or no vote are as follows:

A YES vote will repeal, in its entirety, the current ordinance. It will not stop construction on already approved or in-progress developments.

A NO vote will leave the current ordinance in place.

(Needs Town Meeting approval)

Article 5- Citizen Petition

Are you in favor of repealing, in its entirety, as proposed by citizens petition, the ordinance that was created by Article 3 of the 2019 Town Warrant, passed at the March 2019 Town election stating “Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment No. 2 as proposed by citizen petition for the Town of Pelham Zoning ordinance as follows: this amendment would modify Article IV, Section 307-16(A); Article V, Section 307-18 Table of Permitted uses; and Article V-1 Mixed-Use Overlay District as follows: The raising and keeping of livestock, excluding

poultry, may be conducted as an accessory use of a principal Residential or Mixed-Use Overlay District property of at least three (3) acres and shall be clearly incidental and subordinate to the use of the land for its principal purpose. Structures and enclosures used in conjunction with the raising and keeping of livestock shall be minimum of fifty (50) feet from any property line and shall comply with the best practices, as identified by the UNH Cooperative Extension's housing and space guidelines for livestock. At no time shall a nuisance be created as to sight, sound, smell, or any other impact that may interfere with nearby property owners' rights and enjoyment of their properties. A yes vote would remove this language from the Town's Zoning Ordinance. (Recommended by the Planning Board).

Article 5 Outcomes

The Board of Selectmen does not explain citizen's petition articles, as we do not want to misrepresent or misstate what the petitioner had intended. However, the outcomes for a yes or no vote are as follows:

A YES vote will repeal or overturn last year's "Article 3", which was pertained to livestock in residential or the mixed-use overlay district. This will not preclude the Board of Selectmen from taking up other actions that will seek to prevent nuisance infractions from occurring without recourse in Town.

A NO vote will leave the restrictions in place, limiting the varieties of livestock people can keep on their land IF they do not already have livestock. If a resident has animals now, there will be no changes or restrictions placed on them.

Article 6: Fire Collective Bargaining Agreement (Contract)

Shall the Town vote to approve cost items included in the five (5) year collective bargaining agreement ratified by the Board of Selectmen and the Professional Firefighters of Pelham, the International Association of Fire Fighters, Local 4546, which calls for the following increases and benefits and to further raise and appropriate the sum of \$118,704 to fund the first year of this agreement, such sum representing the additional costs attributed to the increase in salaries and benefits required by the new agreement over those that would be paid at the current staffing levels? This is a Special Warrant article.

(Recommended by the Selectmen) (Recommended by the Budget Committee).

Year	Cost	Accumulated Cost
2020	\$118,704	\$118,704
2021	\$54,726	\$173,431

Year	Cost	Accumulated Cost
2022	\$57,139	\$230,570
2023	58,771	\$289,341
2024*	\$75,976	\$365,318

*Includes 3 months of 2025

Article 6 Explanation: *This contract has been agreed to by both the Board of Selectmen and the Pelham Firefighters' Association. Included are pay increases to make pay for Pelham firefighters more competitive with surrounding communities.*

Article 7- Town 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 Seventeen Million, Seven-Hundred and Thirteen Thousand, Four Hundred and Sixty-One Dollars (\$17,713,461)? Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be Seventeen Million, Three-Hundred and Forty Thousand, Three Hundred and Ninety-One Dollars (\$17,340,391) 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.

(Recommended by the Board of Selectmen) (Recommended by the Budget Committee) (Majority Vote Required).

Department	Selectmen 2020 Approved	BudCom 2020 Approved
Assessor	\$205,801	\$206,640
Budget Committee	\$1	\$1
Cable Department	\$144,480	\$145,873
Cemetery	\$152,979	\$152,793
Conservation	\$5,989	\$5,989
Debt Service Interest	\$96,999	\$96,999
Debt Service Principal	\$649,037	\$649,037
Elections	\$30,779	\$30,779
Emergency Management	\$8,644	\$8,644
Fire Department	\$2,401,014	\$2,436,800
Health Officer	\$45,766	\$45,766
Health Services	\$73,500	\$73,500
Highway Maintenance	\$1,696,756	\$1,810,268

Human Services	\$93,040	\$73,290
Insurance	\$2,579,929	\$2,637,814
Legal	\$96,000	\$96,000
Library	\$521,696	\$527,953
Parks & Recreation	\$259,971	\$263,261
Planning Dept	\$463,828	\$507,131
Police Department	\$3,332,115	\$3,373,951
Retirement	\$1,870,081	\$1,917,125
Selectmen	\$518,920	\$524,699
Senior Center	\$144,630	\$146,643
Technology	\$151,912	\$161,728
Town Buildings	\$649,758	\$668,118
Town Celebrations	\$9,260	\$9,260
Town Clerk/Tax Collector	\$262,961	\$266,846
Transfer	\$856,591	\$861,154
Treasurer	\$15,249	\$15,249
Trust Funds	\$150	\$150
Total	\$17,337,836	\$17,713,461

Article 7 Explanation: *This is the operating budget which the Budget Committee is requesting to support all activities of Town government for 2020. Should this budget vote fail, state law allows a default budget to be established automatically rather than have no budget at all. The budget approved by the budget committee is \$17,713,461. The default budget is \$17,340,391; which is last year's budget plus the dollar amount needed to cover previously voted on warrant articles and contractual increases.*

Article 8 – Fire Truck

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of six-hundred and thirty-thousand dollars (\$630,000) for the purpose of purchasing a new Marion Fire Apparatus (Fire Truck) to replace the current Engine 1? The current Engine 1 is twenty-four (24) years old and beyond its end of life use with anticipated significant ongoing repair expenses in the future. This sum to come from the unassigned fund balance. No money to be raised by taxation. (Recommended by the Selectmen) (Recommended by the Budget Committee).

Article 8 Explanation: *Engine 1, due to its age, is frequently out of commission and cannot be used to respond to emergencies on a regular basis. Cost analysis has proven that replacing the truck will cost less than trying to keep up with repairs on the current Engine 1.*

Article 9- Highway Building Capital Reserve Fund

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) to be placed into the Highway Department Maintenance Capital Reserve Fund previously established for the purpose of constructing a highway maintenance facility to house office and equipment (with the Board of Selectmen having been named as agents to expend, authorizing expenditures following one (1) public hearing? (Recommended by the Selectmen) (Recommended by the Budget Committee).

Article 9 Explanation: If approved, this will allow the Selectmen to add to the existing fund dedicated to the construction of a highway maintenance facility to be used to house, maintain, and repair highway trucks and other equipment. It also provides for an office and storage. Currently, we are utilizing rented trailers for both the Highway and Transfer Station offices.

Article 10- State Highway Grant

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Three Hundred Thirty-Six Thousand, One Hundred Eighty-Five Dollars (\$336,185) for repair, maintenance, purchase of equipment and upgrading of Town roads to be offset by the State Highway Grant? This will be a non-lapsing account, per RSA 32:7, IV. No money to be raised by taxation. (Recommended by Selectmen) (Recommended by Budget Committee)

Article 10 Explanation: This is a grant from the State of New Hampshire. It is funded by State gasoline taxes. The Town uses the funds to improve Town roads and to purchase and maintain highway equipment, such as plows or sanders. This has no impact on local property taxes.

Article 11- Wetland (Re)Designation

Shall the Town vote to re-designate the following wetland systems as prime wetlands as authorized by RSA 482-A:15? These were designated as prime wetlands in 1987 but the boundaries have been remapped using modern GPS technology, and hence must be re designated. There is no tax impact. This is a special warrant article. (Recommended by the Selectmen) (Recommended by the Conservation Commission).

Area	Acres (1987)	Acres (2019)
Lower Golden Brook	72.7	98.8

Area	Acres (1987)	Acres (2019)
Upper Golden Brook	85.3	64
Camp Runels	38	32.1
Dunlop	79.5	88
Cranberry Bog	16.7	20.9
Mountain Orchard	28.2	21.3
Harris Brook	14.2	29.6
	Total: 334.6	Total: 354.7

Article 11 Explanation: Under RSA 482-A:15 and administrative rules Env-Wt700, individual municipalities may elect to designate wetlands as “prime wetlands” if, after thorough analysis (which the Town had conducted in 2019), it is determined that high-quality wetlands are present. A wetland receives this designation due to a number of factors including size, unspoiled character, and ability to sustain populations of rare or threatened plant or animal species. If approved, NHDES will review the submission and apply laws and rules that are applicable to future projects that are within the prime wetland or within a 100-foot prime wetland buffer.

Article 12 – Wetland (Re)Designation

Shall the Town vote to re-designate the following wetland systems as prime wetlands as authorized by RSA 482-A:15? These were designated as prime wetlands in 2000 but the boundaries have been remapped using modern GPS technology, and hence must be re designated. There is no tax impact. This is a special warrant article. (Recommended by the Selectmen) (Recommended by the Conservation Commission).

Area	Acres (2000)	Acres (2019)
Little Island Pond	24.6	26.9
Saint Patrick's	16.1	14.5
Sherburne Road Bog	2.4	3.7
Sherburne Road Open Water	17.7	19.7
	Total: 60.8	Total: 64.8

Article 12 Explanation: *Under RSA 482-A:15 and administrative rules Env-Wt700, individual municipalities may elect to designate wetlands as “prime wetlands” if, after thorough analysis (which the Town had conducted in 2019), it is determined that high-quality wetlands are present. A wetland receives this designation due to a number of factors including size, unspoiled character, and ability to sustain populations of rare or threatened plant or animal species. If approved, NHDES will review the submission and apply laws and rules that are applicable to future projects that are within the prime wetland or within a 100-foot prime wetland buffer.*

Article 13- Town Forest

Shall the Town vote to establish the Merriam Farm Town Forest pursuant to RSA 31:110-113- Map 39, Lot 6-181 totaling approximately 46.52 acres? No tax impact. (Recommended by the Selectmen)

Article 13 Explanation: *This article places this town owned parcel of land (located off Mammoth Road, across from Veteran’s Memorial Park) under the management of the Forestry Committee.*

Article 14- Elderly Exemption

Shall the Town vote to modify the current Exemption with a new Elderly Exemption from property tax as authorized by RSA 72:39-a in the Town of Pelham, based on the assessed values for qualified taxpayers as follows:

For a person 65 years of age up to and including 74 years of age: \$78,400

For a person 75 years of age up to and including 79 years of age: \$112,000

For a person 80 years of age and older: \$145,000

To qualify, the person must meet the requirements of State Law as designated in RSA 72:39-a and 72:39-b. In addition, a qualified taxpayer must have a net annual income of not more than \$35,000 if single or, if married, a combined net annual income of no more than \$45,000 and own assets, excluding the value of the person’s residence, of not more than \$130,000. (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen).

Article 14 Explanation: *Residential property values increased an average of 12% since the last time the town appraised properties. If approved, this article will increase the amount of assessed property value that will be exempt for qualified seniors by 12% to offset the overall increase in town.*

Article 15 – Sports Betting

Shall the Town vote to allow the operation of sports book retail locations within the Town of Pelham in accordance with the lawful requirement of statutes and regulations? (Recommended by the Selectmen).

Article 15 Explanation: Sports betting in the state of New Hampshire became legal in July of 2019. As of this publication, online betting conducted through DraftKings Sportsbook (the lone mobile sports betting operator) is legal for of-age adults (18+) anywhere in the state. A yes vote would permit the opening of “retail locations” for sports betting. Online betting within the State will remain legal regardless of the outcome of this vote.

Article 16- Establishment of an Agricultural Commission

Shall the Town vote to establish an Agricultural Commission as is authorized by RSA 674:44-e, 673:1-II, and RSA 673:4-b? The purpose of this Commission is to serve in an advisory role to the town and it will recognize, educate, promote, protect, and encourage agriculture and agricultural resources throughout the Town. The Agricultural Commission shall not consist of more than five (5) full time members and five (5) alternate members appointed through the Board of Selectmen. Members must be Pelham residents. Initial terms will be appointed for 1, 2, and 3-year terms and shall thereafter be appointed to 3-year terms. (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen).

Article 16 Explanation:

If approved, an Agricultural Commission would be appointed by the Selectmen, creating an advisory board to help promote agriculture activities and promote best practices in Town.

Article 17– Leasing town Land

Shall the Town vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to lease Town-owned space for the purpose of installing solar panel arrays, for a term not to exceed 30 year? (Majority vote required) (Recommended by the Selectmen).

Article 17 Explanation: If approved, the Town will be able to lease Town owned property, specifically town structures, to allow projects involving solar energy. This will allow the town to utilize solar arrays to power town buildings.

Given under our hands this 27th day of January, 2020

William McDevitt, Chair

Doug Viger, Vice Chair

Hal Lynde, Selectman

Heather Forde, Selectman

Kevin Cote, Selectman

Notes

Board of Selectman
6 Village Green
Pelham, NH 03076

Standard Mail
U.S. Postage Paid
Pelham, NH 03076
Permit #6

Current Resident
Pelham, NH 03076