



2019 Town of Pelham Voters Guide

The Board of Selectmen is please to present our residents with this Voter's Guide to assist all voters who plan to vote on Tuesday, March 12th, 2019 at Pelham High School between the hours of 7:00 Am and 8:00 Pm. Please note that voter turnout volume 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 vote. 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 if the majority vote "no". The sole exemption is Article 5, the Town Budget. Please refer to Article 5 for explanation.

We strongly encourage you to vote on March 12th 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

Harold Lynde, Chair - 2019
William McDevitt, Vice Chair - 2020
Douglas Viger – 2020
Amy Spencer – 2019
Heather Forde- 2021

-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 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 the budgets prepared by the Budget Committee.

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 expenditure, such as major equipment, buildings, etc.

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

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

MTBE: (Methyl tertiary-butyl Ether) is a chemical compound that, years ago, was added to gasoline to increase oxygen levels. It is no longer used due to its ability to contaminate groundwater, as in the case of Pelham.

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

RSA: Refers to a state law- Revised Statutes Annnotated. These laws can be found on the State of New Hampshire website under "Laws and Rules"

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

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

Water District: A local, governmental entity that provides limited services to its customers and residents.



TOWN OF PELHAM
STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
WARRANT
2019 TOWN MEETING

ARTICLE 1

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 Clerk/Tax Collector for a term of three (3) years; one (1) Cemetery Trustee 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; one (1) Budget Committee Member for a term of one (1) years; two (2) Planning Board Members for a term of three (3) years.

ARTICLE 2

Are you in favor of Amendment No. 1, as proposed by the Planning Board, for the Town of Pelham to repeal in its entirety Pelham Zoning Ordinance Article IX, Elderly Housing? The effect of the repeal would be to eliminate any future age-restricted housing as an allowed use within Pelham. (Recommended by the Planning Board).

Article 2 Explanation: The elderly housing ordinance in current zoning has resulted in projects being approved with significant density that will have impacts to municipal services, especially fire and police.

ARTICLE 3

Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment No. 2 as proposed by Citizen's 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 lot for its principal purpose. Structures and enclosures used in conjunction with the raising and keeping of livestock shall be a 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. (Recommended by the Pelham Planning Board).

(We do not explain petition articles because we do not always know with accuracy what was in the mind of the petitioners. There is some risk the explanation is inaccurate or lacking in some important points the petitioners feel should be emphasized).

ARTICLE 4

Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment No. 3 as proposed by Citizen's Petition for the Town of Pelham Zoning Ordinance as follows: this amendment would modify Sections 307-18 -- To allow Light Industrial and Manufacturing in the B5 zone? They would pay commercial taxes and employ residents to work in their establishments. Nothing else would change to the existing B5 zone. (Not Recommended by the Planning Board).

(We do not explain petition articles because we do not always know with accuracy what was in the mind of the petitioners. There is some risk the explanation is inaccurate or lacking in some important points the petitioners feel should be emphasized).

ARTICLE 5

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 Sixteen Million, Four-Hundred Twenty-One Thousand, Two Hundred Twenty-Seven Dollars (\$16,421,227)? Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be Sixteen Million, Four-Hundred Fifty-Two Thousand, Three-Hundred Eighty-Five Dollars (\$16,452,385) 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).

	BOS	Bud Com
Department	Approved	Approved
Assessor	222,211	222,213
Budget Committee	162	162
Cable Department	136,837	136,838
Cemetery	145,470	145,835
Conservation Committee	7,947	7,947
Debt Service Interest	113,477	113,477
Debt Service Principal	710,714	710,714
Elections	11,427	11,427
Emergency Management	8,644	\$8,644
Fire Department	\$2,259,025	\$2,351,733
Health Officer	45,766	45,766
Health Services	73,500	73,500
Highway Maintenance	1,530,276	1,537,223
Human Services	93,040	93,040
Insurance	2,410,396	2,590,049
Legal	97,500	97,500
Library	474,848	443,839
Parks & Recreation	248,850	248,938
Planning Dept	409,593	409,693
Police Department	3,077,012	3,062,874
Retirement	1,757,918	1,757,918
Selectmen	513,716	513,716
Senior Center	136,845	136,844
Town Buildings	713,910	717,578
Town Celebrations	9,260	9,261
Town Clerk	240,680	240,680
Transfer	711,831	712,492
Treasurer	15,176	21,176
Trust Funds	150	150
Total	16,176,181	16,421,227

Article 5 Explanation: *This is the operating budget which the BUDGET COMMITTEE is requesting to support all activities of Town government for 2019. Should this budget 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 \$16,421,227. The default budget is \$16,452,385; the default budget is higher because the law requires it to include funds for programs and warrant articles needed in the previous tax year that are no longer needed.*

ARTICLE 6

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 Pelham Public Works and Municipal Employees, Local 1801 of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME), which calls for the following increases in salary and benefits and to further raise and appropriate the sum of Fifty-Four Thousand, Three Hundred and Ninety-Two Dollars (\$54,392) to fund this year of the agreement, such sum representing the additional costs attributable to the increase in salaries and benefits required by the new agreement over those that would be paid at current staffing levels? This is a Special Warrant Article. (Majority Vote Required).

<u>Year</u>	<u>Cost</u>	<u>Accumulated Cost</u>
2019	\$54,392	\$54,392
2020	\$46,516	\$100,908
2021	\$47,660	\$148,568
2022	\$42,618	\$191,186
2023*	\$40,292	\$231,479

*includes 3 months of 2024

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

(Majority Vote Required).

Article 6 Explanation: This contract has been agreed to by the Selectmen and the American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees, which includes transfer station, highway department, and other town employees.

ARTICLE 7

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Three Hundred Twenty- Eight Thousand, Six Hundred Eighty-Four Dollars (\$328,684) for repair, maintenance, and 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 the Selectmen) (Recommended by the Budget Committee) (Majority Vote Required).

Article 7 Explanation: This is grant from the state. It is funded by state gasoline taxes. The Town uses the funds to improve town roads and to purchase and maintain highway equipment. This has no impact on local property taxes.

ARTICLE 8

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Three Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$300,000) 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 public hearing)?

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

(Majority Vote Required).

Article 8 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 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 offices.

ARTICLE 9

Shall the town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of One Million Seven Hundred Thirteen Thousand dollars (\$1,713,000) for the purpose of engineering, permitting, and constructing a flood relief bridge structure adjacent to the Old Bridge Street (Abbott) Bridge? Of the \$1,713,000 appropriation, up to \$1,370,400 will come from New Hampshire Department of Transportation (NHDOT) State Bridge Aid, \$342,600 (requested herein) from general taxation. This is a non-lapsing appropriation and will not lapse until 12/31/2025 or until the project is completed. (Recommended by the Selectmen) (Recommended by the Budget Committee)
(Majority Vote Required).

Article 9 Explanation: In 2012, the Town of Pelham conducted a bridge survey, the conclusion of which was that 3 bridges in town (Willow Street, Abbott Bridge, Daniel Gionet Bridge at Main Street) needed to be altered to improve water flow to reduce flooding and the scouring effects to the historic Abbott Bridge footings. This represents the second stage of the improvements recommended by the 2012 survey. The cost of this project will be significantly borne (80%) by the State of New Hampshire.

ARTICLE 10

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Two Hundred Fifty One Thousand and Sixty Dollars (\$251,060) for the purpose of renovations to the Pelham Library consisting of expanded Young Adult area, ceiling enclosure of the Ernest Law Room, remodel and expansion

(including a kitchenette) to the Molly Hobbs Room, sound reduction in the stairwell, employee break room renovation as well as new office space. This is a Special Warrant Article. (Recommended by Library Trustees) (Recommended by the Budget Committee). (Majority Vote Required).

Article 10 Explanation: The library renovations will address significant noise issues, broaden programming, and increase the usable square footage of the second floor by 550 square feet without expanding the building.

ARTICLE 11

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of thirty thousand dollars (\$30,000) for the purpose of forest management, stewardship (signage, trail building, maps, parking, etc.) security, public education and other costs associated with the maintenance and care of Town forest land? Said funds to come from the Forest Maintenance Fund, which is funded from revenues produced by timber harvesting in connection with forest management. No amount to be raised through taxation. This is a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7, VI, and shall not lapse until 12/31/2024 or until this project is completed, whichever comes first. (This is a Special Warrant Article) (Recommended by the Selectmen) (Recommended by the Budget Committee). (Majority Vote Required).

Article 11 Explanation: The Forestry Committee has, for years, worked with a professional forester to manage most Town owned woodlands. This includes the carefully controlled cutting of selected trees according to detailed plans prepared by said forester. Proceeds from the sale of the wood are placed in the Forest Maintenance Fund and, if this article is approved, expended as requested in this article.

ARTICLE 12

Shall the Town vote to establish as Town Forests pursuant to RSA 31:110-113 – Map 33 Lot 1-161 and Map 33 Lot 2-61-1 - totaling approximately 92 acres and add them to the Cutler-Spalding Town Forest? No tax impact. (Recommended by the Selectmen). (Majority Vote Required).

Article 12 explanation: This article places this parcel of land (located off Wyndridge Circle) under the management of the Forestry Committee.

ARTICLE 13

Shall the Town vote to establish the Moeckel Road Town Forest pursuant to RSA 31:110-113 - Map 9 Lot 9-2, Map 9 Lot 9-5 and Map 9 Lot 9-9 - totaling approximately 75 acres? No tax impact. (Recommended by the Selectmen) (Majority Vote Required).

Article 13 Explanation: This article places the parcel of land (located off Simpson Mill Road between Golden Brook Drive and Bayleaf Way) under the management of the Forestry Committee.

ARTICLE 14

Shall the Town vote to establish the Moose Pond Town Forest pursuant to RSA 31:110-113 - Map 24 Lot 12-41 and Map 31 Lot 11-28-6 - totaling approximately 31 acres? No tax impact. (Recommended by the Selectmen) (Majority Vote Required).

Article 14 Explanation: This article places the parcel of land (located between Stonepost Road and Mulberry Lane) under the management of the Forestry Committee.

ARTICLE 15

Shall the Town vote to establish the Wolven Park Conservation Area as a Town forest pursuant to RSA 31:110-113 – Map 41 Lot 10-264 – totaling approximately 23 acres? No tax impact. (Recommended by the Selectmen) (Majority Vote Required).

Article 15 Explanation: This article places the parcel of land (off Jericho and Currier Roads) under the management of the Forestry Committee.

ARTICLE 16

Shall the Town vote to establish a Water District, as is authorized by N.H. RSA 31:134-149, which shall consist of those properties that are adjacent to and within 500 feet (500') of the following two water main line extensions: 1) an extension of the existing Marsh Road water line beyond Pelham High School along Marsh Road to the intersection of Mammoth Road; and, 2) an extension of the existing Pennichuck water line beginning at the Nashua Road/ Main Street intersection, traveling East along Main Street to the intersection of Bridge Street, and then extending down Bridge Street to the Dracut town line? The purpose of this Water District is to provide water service to the properties that have had their water supply adversely impacted by MTBE and other contaminants. The expenses of the Water District shall be borne by property owners and water users, as appropriate, within the Water District. And further, the Water

District shall be managed by a five (5) member Water Commission, whose members shall be Pelham residents and who shall be appointed by the Board of Selectmen for an initial term of either 1, 2, or 3 years, and shall thereafter be appointed to a term of 3 years. (Recommended by Selectmen) (Majority Vote Required)

Article 16 Explanation: This article serves to create a Water District as a necessary first step in the process of obtaining state funds for the continued remediation of MTBE resulting from the 1989 contamination of ground water in the area outlined above. If this district is approved, the Selectmen will seek volunteers to be appointed to the Water Commission. It will be the responsibility of this commission to develop plans for the expansion of water to these areas including all costs associated with the expansion and the cost to property owners in the area described. No costs of any expansion or subsequent operation of water service within the district will be paid for by property owners outside the district. Water will be provided by Pennichuck East, Inc., which holds the franchise for water distribution within the Town. The Selectmen have agreed that if this article is approved but they do not have five volunteers for appointment to the commission, no further action will be taken.

Sample Ballot will be on the following pages