



## Bethlehem

The inhabitants of the Town of Bethlehem in the County of Grafton in the state of New Hampshire qualified to vote in Town affairs are hereby notified that the Annual Town Meeting will be held as follows:

**First Session of Annual Meeting (Deliberative Session)**

Date:

Time:

Location:

Details:

**Second Session of Annual Meeting (Official Ballot Voting)**

Date:

Time:

Location:

Details:

**GOVERNING BODY CERTIFICATION**

We certify and attest that on or before <DATE>, a true and attested copy of this document was posted at the place of meeting and at <LOCATION> and that an original was delivered to <OFFICIAL>.

Name	Position	Signature
Veronica Anne Morris	Selectman	Veronica Anne Morris
MICHAEL A. BRUND	Selectman	Michael A. Brund
Nancy Strand	Selectman	Nancy Strand
Bruce Caplan	Selectman	Bruce Caplan
April Hubbard	Selectman	April Hubbard



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**Article 01 Choose Town Officers**

To choose all necessary Town Officers for the ensuing year. (Ballot Vote) (The Board of Selectmen recommends this Article 5-0).

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**Article 02 Zoning Amendment 1**

Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment No. 1 as proposed by the Planning Board for the Bethlehem Zoning Ordinance as follows: to reduce the required parking from 2 spaces to 1 space for accessory dwelling units (ADUs) that are no larger than 1,000 sq. ft. of gross floor area and which have no more than two bedrooms.

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**Article 03 Zoning Amendment 2**

Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment No. 2 as proposed by the Planning Board for the Bethlehem Zoning Ordinance as follows: to allow a single-family home to have one detached accessory dwelling unit (ADU) up to 1,000 sq. ft. of gross floor area with two bedrooms as a Permitted Use in Districts II, III, and IV and by Special Exception in District I Main Street and District I.

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**Article 04 Zoning Amendment 3**

Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment No. 3 as proposed by the Planning Board for the Bethlehem Zoning Ordinance as follows: to define "Residential Conversions" and allow the conversion of existing residential structures and those structures previously used for nonresidential purposes to multi-family uses as a Permitted Use in District I Main Street and District I and by Special Exception in Districts II, III, and IV.

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**Article 05 Zoning Amendment 4**

Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment No. 4 as proposed by the Planning Board for the Bethlehem Zoning Ordinance as follows: to increase housing opportunity by allowing dwelling units above first-floor businesses as a Permitted Use in District I Main Street and District I and by Special Exception in Districts II, III, and IV; and also add a definition of "Mixed Use."

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**Article 06 Zoning Amendment 5**

Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment No. 5 as proposed by the Planning Board for the Bethlehem Zoning Ordinance as follows: repeal and replace Article XII regarding Cluster Developments and allow Cluster Developments as a Permitted Use everywhere except District I Main Street and the Landfill District. . Major changes to the Cluster Developments Article include the provision of additional guidance for the Planning Board when reviewing Cluster Developments, and a density bonus for developments with homes no larger than 1,200 sq. ft. gross floor area with a two-car garage

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**Article 07 Zoning Amendment 6**

Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment No. 6 as proposed by the Planning Board for the Bethlehem Zoning Ordinance as follows: add a definition of and allow Short Term Rentals of single family dwellings, owner occupied two family dwellings, and ADUs to owner occupied single family dwellings as a Permitted Use in District I Main Street, District I, District II, District III and District IV; repeal the definition of "Motels, hotels, guest homes and overnight cabins"; adopt a new definition of "Public Accommodation," which includes Campgrounds; add definitions of Accessory Building or Use, Bed and Breakfast, Campground, Owner-occupied, and Transient; add Bed and Breakfast and owner occupied short term rentals to the definition of Home Business; and adopt health and safety requirements for Short Term Rentals.



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**Article 08      Zoning Amendment 7**

Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment No. 7 as proposed by the Planning Board for the Bethlehem Zoning Ordinance as follows: to remove Article XVII Impact Fees in its entirety (has never been used), along with the Definitions in Article XXII that are only used in that section of the Zoning Ordinance.

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**Article 09      Zoning Amendment 8**

Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment No. 8 as proposed by the Planning Board for the Bethlehem Zoning Ordinance as follows: add a definition of Gross Floor Area as "the sum of the horizontal area of all floors of a building, measured from the exterior faces of the walls but not including unfinished cellars, attics, porches, etc."

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**Article 10      Operating Budget**

Shall the Town 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 therein, totaling \$3,582,974 (Three Million Five Hundred Eighty-Two Thousand Nine Hundred Seventy-Four Dollars). Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be \$3,370,220 (Three Million Three Hundred Seventy Thousand Two Hundred Twenty Dollars), 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. (The Board of Selectmen recommends this Article 4-0). Tax Impact 6.57

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**Article 11      Visitors Center Roof**

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the SELECTMEN'S recommended amount of \$180,000 (One Hundred Eighty Thousand Dollars) perform structural repairs and to replace the Visitor's center roof. (Majority vote required) The Board of Selectmen recommends this Article 4-0). Estimated tax impact 0.348

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**Article 12      Highway Equipment Capital Reserve Fund**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$50,000 (fifty thousand) to be added to the Highway Equipment Capital Reserve Fund previously established. (The Board of Selectmen recommends this Article 4-0). Estimated tax impact .097

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**Article 13      Dissolve Highway Truck Capital Reserve**

To see if the town will vote to discontinue the Highway Truck Capital Reserve created in 1995. Said funds, with accumulated interest to date of withdrawal, are to be transferred to the municipality's general fund. (Majority vote required) (The Board of Selectmen recommends this Article 4-0). Estimated tax impact 0.0

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**Article 14      Police Cruiser Capital Reserve Fund**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$25,000 (Twenty Five Thousand Dollars) to be added to the Police Cruiser Capital Reserve Fund previously established. (The Board of Selectmen recommends this Article 4-0). Estimated tax impact .048

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**Article 15      Police Equipment Capital Reserve Fund**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$3,000 (Three Thousand Dollars) to be added to the Police Equipment Capital Reserve Fund previously established. (The Board of Selectmen recommends this Article 4-0). Estimated tax impact .006



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**Article 16 Fire Safety Equipment Capital Reserve**

To see if the town will vote to change the purpose of the existing Fire Department Personal Protective Safety Equipment Capital Reserve Fund to a Fire Department Equipment Capital Reserve Fund, to allow the money to be used to purchase safety equipment for the fire department in addition to personal protective clothing and self contained breathing apparatus. And furthermore to name the Selectmen as agents to expend from said fund.

(2/3 vote required)(The Board of Selectmen recommends this Article 4-0). Estimated tax impact 0.0

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**Article 17 Fire Department Safety Equipment Capital Reserve**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$10,000 (Ten Thousand Dollars) to be added to the Fire Department Emergency Safety Equipment Capital Reserve Fund previously established. (The Board of Selectmen recommends this Article 4-0). Estimated tax impact 0.019

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**Article 18 Ambulance Capital Reserve Fund**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$25,000 (Twenty-Five Dollars) to be added to the Ambulance Capital Reserve Fund previously established. (The Board of Selectmen recommends this Article 4-0). Estimated tax impact .048

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**Article 19 Fire Truck Capital Reserve Fund**

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$164,000.00 to be added to the Fire Truck Capital Reserve previously established. This sum is to come from unassigned fund balance. There will be no tax impact if this article passes. (The Board of Selectmen recommends this Article 4-0). Estimated tax impact .00000

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**Article 20 Public Safety Facility**

To see if the Town will vote to establish a Public Safety Facility Capital Reserve Fund under the provisions of RSA 35:1 for the purpose of building a Public Safety facility and to raise and appropriate the sum of \$100,000 (One Hundred Thousand Dollars). Further, to name the Board of Selectmen as agents to expend from said fund. (The Board of Selectmen recommends this Article 4-0) Tax Impact .193

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**Article 21 Assessing Capital Reserve Fund**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$26,000 (Twenty-Six Thousand Dollars) to be added to the Assessing Capital Reserve Fund previously established. (The Board of Selectmen recommends this Article 4-0). Estimated tax impact .050

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**Article 22 Tech Needs Capital Reserve Fund**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$8,000 (Eight Thousand Dollars) to be added to the Tech/Computer Capital Reserve Fund previously established. (The Board of Selectmen recommends this Article 4-0). Estimated tax impact .010

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**Article 23 Solid Waste Disposal Capital Reserve Fund**

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$40,000 (Forty Thousand) to be added to the Solid Waste Disposal Capital Reserve Fund previously established. (The Board of Selectmen recommends this Article 4-0). Estimated tax impact .077



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**Article 24      Modify Town Building Capital Reserve**

To see if the town will vote to amend the Town Building Maintenance Capital Reserve Fund under the provisions of RSA 35:1 that was established in 2003 to increase the amount not to exceed \$15,000 to \$100,000. There will be no tax impact if this article passes. (The Board of Selectmen recommends this Article 4-0). Estimated tax impact .000

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**Article 25      Town Building Maintenance Capital Reserve Fund**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$10,000 (Ten Thousand Dollars) to be added to the Town Building Maintenance Capital Reserve Fund previously established. (The Board of Selectmen recommend this Article 3-1). Estimated tax impact .019

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**Article 26      Library Capital Reserve Fund**

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$15,000 (fifteen thousand dollars) to be added to the Library Capital Reserve Fund previously established. (The Board of Selectmen recommends this Article 3-1). Estimated tax impact .029

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**Article 27      Gazebo Concerts**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$9,650 (Nine Thousand Six Hundred Fifty Dollars) for the purpose of providing live musical entertainment to the public, to be held at the Bethlehem Gazebo in 2024. (The Board of Selectmen recommends this Article 4-0) Estimated tax impact .019

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**Article 28      Community Power**

To see if the Town will vote to adopt the Bethlehem Community Power plan, to authorize the Select Board to implement the plan, and to take all action in furtherance thereof, pursuant to RSA 53-E. The Bethlehem Community Power plan is an opt-out program that offers more flexible electricity procurement. The plan will initially provide lower electricity rates for residents, or it will not launch. Initial participation in the plan can be declined, after which enrollment becomes voluntary. (The Board of Selectmen recommends this Article 4-0). Estimated tax impact 0.0

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**Article 29      READOPT OPTIONAL VETERANS' TAX CREDIT (RSA 72:28)**

Shall the town READOPT the OPTIONAL VETERANS TAX CREDIT in accordance with RSA 72:28, II, for an annual tax credit on residential property of \$500.00? (Majority vote required) (The Board of Selectmen recommends this Article 4-0)

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**Article 30      ADOPT ALL VETERANS' TAX CREDIT (RSA 72:28-b)**

Shall the town ADOPT the ALL VETERANS TAX CREDIT in accordance with RSA 72:28-b, for an annual tax credit on residential property which shall be equal to the same amount as the standard or optional veterans tax credit voted by the town under RSA 72:28? (Majority vote required) (The Board of Selectmen recommends this Article 3-0-1 abstained)





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**Article 31      Modify Elderly Exemption**

Shall the town MODIFY the provisions of RSA 72:39-a for elderly exemption from property tax in the Town of Bethlehem, based on assessed value, for qualified taxpayers, to be as follows: for a person 65 years of age up to 75 years, \$100,000; for a person 75 years of age up to 80 years, \$150,000; for a person 80 years of age or older \$200,000. To qualify, the person must have been a New Hampshire resident for at least 3 consecutive years, own the real estate individually or jointly, or if the real estate is owned by such person's spouse, they must have been married to each other for at least 5 consecutive years. In addition, the taxpayer must have a net income of not more than \$30,000 or, if married, a combined net income of less than \$40,000; and own net assets not in excess of \$100,000 excluding the value of the person's residence. (Majority vote required) (The Board of Selectmen recommends this Article 4-0)

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**Article 32      Disabled Exemption**

Shall the town ADOPT the provisions of RSA 72:37-b, Exemption for the Disabled from property tax, based on assessed value for qualified taxpayers to be \$100,000. To qualify the person must have been a New Hampshire resident for at least 5 years, own the real estate individually or jointly, or if the real estate is owned by such person's spouse, they must have been married for at least 5 consecutive years. In addition, the taxpayer must have a net income of not more than \$30,000 or if married, a combined net income of not more than \$40,000, and own net assets not in excess of \$100,000 excluding the value of the person's residence. (Majority vote required)(The Board of Selectmen recommends this Article 4-0)

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**Article 33      Noise Ordinance**

To see if the Town will adopt the proposed noise ordinance pursuant to RSA 31:39, which prohibits certain loud noises likely to endanger the comfort, repose, health, peace, or safety of others between the hours of 10 PM and 7 AM. Several types of noises, including but not limited to emergency service are exempted from the ordinance, and the Select Board shall have the authority to issue a temporary special permit for other types of noises. Violations of the ordinance will result in penalties ranging from \$100 to \$250, depending on the number of convictions in any six-month period. (The Board of Selectmen recommends this Article 4-0). Estimated tax impact 0.0

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**Article 34      Petition- Grafton County Senior Citizens Council**

We registered voters in the Town of Bethlehem present this petitioned article to be included in the 2024 Town of Bethlehem Warrant: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Ten thousand dollars (\$10,000.00) to Grafton County Senior Citizens Council, Inc. through the Littleton Area Senior Center and the ServiceLink Resource Center for services for Bethlehem residents in 2023. From July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023, the Littleton Area Senior Center provided services for 246 residents. These services included nutrition, transportation, outreach support, ServiceLink support, and more. The cost of providing these services was \$169,559.86. Petitioned Article (The Board of Selectmen does not recommend this Article 4-0) Estimated tax impact 0.019

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**Article 35      Petition-North Country Home Health & Hospice**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$4,000 (Four Thousand) for the purpose of supporting Hospice, Home Health, Palliative and Long-Term Care services provided by North Country Home Health & Hospice. Petitioned Article. (The Board of Selectmen does not recommend this Article 4-0) Estimated tax impact 0.008



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**Article 36      Petition-Second Chance Animal Rescue**

To see if the town of Bethlehem NH will vote to raise the appropriate sum of \$1,000 (One Thousand Dollars) for the Second Chance Animal Rescue. Second Chance Animal Rescue is a nonprofit that provides care and shelter for abused and abandoned cats and kittens. Second Chance Animal Rescue also sponsors monthly low cost Spay/Neuter clinics for both dogs and cats. (The Board of Selectmen does not recommend this Article 4-0) Estimated tax impact 0.002

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**Article 37      Petition Boys & Girls Club**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$2,500.00 (two thousand five hundred dollars) to support the Boys & Girls Club of the North Country in providing a healthy, safe, and productive after school and vacation camp environment for children from Bethlehem and the local community. The Club provides busing from the school to the Club for the afterschool program, which alone costs \$5000 a year.(The Board of Selectmen does not recommend this Article 4-0) Estimated tax impact 0.005

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**Article 38      Petition Northern Human Services**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$3,121.00 (Three Thousand One Hundred Twenty-One Dollars) as the town's contribution to the White Mountain Mental Health and Common Ground, programs of Northern Human Services, serving the mental health and development service needs of Bethlehem residents. (The Board of Selectmen does not recommend this Article 4-0) Estimated tax impact 0.004