

**Town of Stratham  
Town Meeting Minutes  
March 15, 2013**

The ballot clerks were sworn in at 7:55 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. Present were Moderator Dave Emanuel, Assistant Moderator Jerry Howard, Town Clerk/Tax Collector Joyce Charbonneau, Deputy Town Clerk/Tax Collector Catherine Kenny, and Town Administrator Paul Deschaine. Also present were Selectmen David Canada and Bruno Federico. The Supervisors of the Checklist present were Sue Hunter and Caren Gallagher. The assistants to the Supervisors for the day were Nancy Hunter and Bea Newman. The ballot clerks for the day were Ann Marie Peck, Susan Brett, Susan Canada, Dianna Thompson, Roger Thompson, Cheryl Ewart, Elizabeth Chisholm, Joanna Greenlaw, Victor Collinino, Peg Mullin, and Diana Alsterberg.

It was a quiet day with 500 votes cast at the Town election, with 6 of those being absentee ballots. The number of total voters on the checklist was 5681. This represents a 9% turnout of voters.

**Exeter Region Cooperative School District Ballot results for Stratham only are as follows: (\*=Denotes the Winner)**

**Cooperative School Board:** For Exeter for three years, vote for one: Darrell J. Chichester 322\*. For Brentwood for three years, vote for one: Linda R. Garey 141. Elizabeth M. Faria 197\*. For Kensington for three years, vote for one: (There was no candidate on the ballot, winner will be determined by the five Cooperative towns via write-in votes.) **Cooperative School District Budget Committee:** For Exeter for three years, vote for one: John R. Bridle 306\*. For Kensington for one year, vote for one: (There was no candidate on the ballot, winner will be determined by the five Cooperative towns via write-in votes.) For Newfields for three years, vote for one: Simon J. Heslop 312\*. For Stratham for three years, vote for one: Lucy H. Cushman 416\*. **Cooperative School District Moderator:** For one year, vote for one: Katherine B. Miller 348\*.

**Article 1:**

Operating Budget: Yes 334\* No 59

**Stratham Memorial School District Ballot results as follows:  
(\*=Denotes the Winner)**

**School Board Member:** For three years, vote for one: Everett J. Lamm 408\*. **School Board Member:** For one year, vote for one: Eric Von Der Linden 268\*. James Firmin 149. **School District Moderator:** For three years, vote for one: Dave Emanuel 453\*. **School District Treasurer:** For three years, vote for one: Patricia T. Lovejoy 435\*.

**Annual Town of Stratham Ballot results as follows:  
(\*=Denotes the Winner)**

## **Article 1:**

**Selectman:** For three years, vote for one: Timothy D. Copeland 402\*. **Library Trustee:** For three years, vote for two: Penny O’Sullivan 373\*. Victoria Marbacher 313\*. **Cemetery Trustee:** For three years, vote for one: June Sawyer 441\*. **Trustee of the Trust Funds:** For three years, vote for one: Joyce A. Rowe 437\*.

**Article 2:** Are you in favor of adopting the following amendment to the Town of Stratham Zoning Ordinance as petitioned by Benjamin Dunkerley and 24 other registered voters?

To amend the Official Zoning Map of the Town of Stratham pursuant to Section 3.2 to rezone Tax Map 13 Lot 43, also known as 5 Emery Lane, from its current zoning designation of Residential / Agricultural (R/A) to the Professional / Residential (PRE) Zoning District.

Yes 84 No 391\*

*The Planning Board does not recommend this article by a vote 3-1 (one abstention).*

**Article 3:** Are you in favor of adopting the following amendment to the Town of Stratham Zoning Ordinance as proposed by the Planning Board?

To amend the Zoning Ordinance, Section II. Definitions, Subsection 2.1.51 Professional (Professional Office), insert new subsections for Commercial Service Establishment, Personal Service Establishment, and Retail Sales to further clarify and define said terms, and then renumber accordingly.

And in connection therewith, amend Section 3.6 Table of Uses by adding/replacing as appropriate the proposed underlined text to Table 3.6.F Commercial Uses to include a Commercial Service Establishment, Personal Service Establishment, and Retail Sales as regulated uses in all zoning districts, and then renumbering accordingly.

Yes 346\* No 125

*The Planning Board recommends this article by unanimous vote.*

**Article 4:** Are you in favor of adopting the following amendment to the Town of Stratham Zoning Ordinance as proposed by the Planning Board?

To amend Sections 3.4.3 Professional / Residential, 3.6 Table of Uses, and Footnotes to Table 3.6 to permit Retail Sale uses within the Professional / Residential Zoning District and in connection therewith, include design standards and size restrictions for said uses.

Yes 336\* No 141

*The Planning Board recommends this article by unanimous vote.*

**Article 5:** Are you in favor of adopting the following amendment to the Town of Stratham Zoning Ordinance as proposed by the Planning Board?

To amend Section VII. Signs by replacing said section in its entirety with revised language to further clarify and provide additional guidance on the type, number, maximum area, and design of signage within Stratham.

And in connection therewith, delete Section II. Definitions, Subsections 2.1.61 through 2.1.91 and Section 3.8 Gateway Commercial Business District, Subsection 3.8.7.f in their entirety and renumber accordingly.

Yes 295\* No 168

*The Planning Board recommends this article by unanimous vote.*

**Article 6:** Are you in favor of adopting the following amendment to the Town of Stratham Zoning Ordinance as proposed by the Planning Board?

To amend Section VIII. Residential Open Space Cluster Development by replacing said section in its entirety with revised language to further clarify and provide additional guidance regarding density bonuses and open space design and requirements for Residential Open Space Cluster Developments.

And in connection therewith, replace Section 3.6 Table of Uses, Additional Notes in it entirety with revised language to reflect the updated criteria and standards pertaining to the issuance of a Conditional Use Permit.

Yes 329\* No 124

*The Planning Board recommends this article by unanimous vote.*

**Article 7:** Are you in favor of adopting the following amendment to the Town of Stratham Zoning Ordinance as proposed by the Planning Board?

To amend Sections 3.1 Establishment of Districts, 3.2 Location, 3.4 District Purposes, 3.6 Table of Uses, 3.8 Gateway Commercial Business District, 4.1 General Requirements, 4.2 Table of Dimensional Requirements, 4.3 Explanatory Notes, 5.8.4 Multi-Family, Workforce Housing, and Elderly Affordable Housing - Applicability, and VII. Signs by eliminating all references to the General Commercial District in their entirety and designating the Gateway Commercial Business District from its current designation as an overlay district to the underlying, mandatory zoning district.

And in connection therewith, amend Section 3.6 Table of Uses by inserting the Gateway Commercial Business District, Central Zone and Outer Zone subdistricts and designating the appropriate permitted uses in accordance with Section 3.8.8 Development Standards And Tables.

And in connection therewith, amend Section 3.8.8, Table 2. to reduce the minimum building/structure setback requirement for properties fronting Route 108/Portsmouth Avenue.

And in connection therewith, Amend Sections 4.1.3 General Requirements, 4.2 Table of Dimensional Requirements, 5.8.4 Applicability, 7.2.3 Prohibited Signs, and 7.3 Table of

Permitted Signs by deleting the stricken text referencing the General Commercial Zoning District as shown.

Yes 298\* No 152

*The Planning Board recommends this article by unanimous vote.*

**Article 8:** Are you in favor of adopting the following amendment to the Town of Stratham Zoning Ordinance as proposed by the Planning Board?

To amend Sections Table 4.2 Table of Dimensional Requirements and 4.3 Explanatory Notes to reduce the front setback requirements for properties fronting Route 108 and Route 33 within the Gateway Commercial Business District, Professional / Residential District, Special Commercial District, and Town Center District.

Yes 296\* No 162

*The Planning Board recommends this article by unanimous vote.*

**The remaining Town of Stratham articles will be voted on Friday, March 15, 2013 at the Stratham Memorial School at 7:00 p.m.**

Town Moderator Dave Emanuel declared the meeting to come to order at 7:15 p.m. Lucy Cushman led the Pledge of Allegiance. Mr. Emanuel then called for a moment of silence for all those serving in the Armed Forces, and for those that could not be there tonight. Mr. Emanuel then went on to introduce himself and everyone on the stage, the Board of Selectmen, (B.O.S.): David Canada, Tim Copeland, and Bruno Federico; the Town Administrator: Paul Deschaine, and the Town Clerk/Tax Collector: Joyce Charbonneau. Also introduced were Catherine Kenny, Deputy Town Clerk, and the Supervisors of the Checklist, Sue Hunter and Caren Gallagher. Mr. Emanuel then called on resident Travis Thompson to read the Dedication of the Town Report. This year's dedication was to Martin Wool and Fred Hutton Jr. Resident Patrick Abrami then read the Memorial Dedication on Robert Cushman and D. Craig Wark. Dave Emanuel then read the results of the ballot voting on Tuesday, March 12, 2013. He stated there were no requests for recounts. Mr. Emanuel then explained the Rules of Procedure for Town Meeting. Mr. Emanuel asked if there were any questions regarding the procedures for Town Meeting. Mr. Nick Kardoose of 24 Balmoral Dr. asked if there would be an answer of Article 9 this evening. Mr. Emanuel explained that there would be an answer once everyone has had a chance to vote. The polls will stay open an hour, the ballots will be counted, and the results will be announced. Mr. Kardoose then asked for clarification between Article 9 and Article 12. Mr. Emanuel explained Article 9 referred to the bond purchase for the Cushman property, and Article 12 referred to the outright purchase for the Cushman property.

**The Following articles were discussed and voted on:**

**Article 9: Cushman Property Bond Issue**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Five Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$500,000.00) for the acquisition of property of the Cushman Family Trust at 82

Portsmouth Avenue, Stratham, NH (Tax Map 13, Lot 127) and to authorize the Selectmen to act on behalf of the Town in connection with such an acquisition, and to further authorize the issuance of not more than Five Hundred Thousand dollars (\$500,000.00) of bonds and/or notes in accordance with the provisions of the Municipal Finance Act (NH RSA Chapter 33) and to authorize the Selectmen to issue, negotiate, and regulate such bonds and/or notes and to determine the rates of interest thereon. Further, to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the additional sum of Twelve Thousand Dollars (\$12,000.00) to pay interest and other related charges during the first year of the acquisition of this property. Should this article pass, Article 12 shall become null and void.

**A two thirds (2/3) majority ballot vote in favor is required for passage. Polls must be open for a minimum of one (1) hour.**

The Board of Selectmen recommends this Article by unanimous vote. Selectman David Canada moved to accept this article as read. Selectman Bruno Federico seconded the motion. Selectman David Canada spoke for the motion. Mr. Canada stated that there would be several exhibits shown on the screen at the front of the room referring to the Cushman property. The tax impact to this article would be minus four cents and he went on to explain that the reason for this is when we issue bonds, we actually issue five separate bonds, each due on separate subsequent years. Initially, there would not be a principal payment for this year. He stated there would be very minimal impact for this year. If Article 9 is defeated, and Article 12 passed, the tax impact would be a .36 (cent) increase on the tax rate. Mr. Canada then referred to the screen with several pictures of the Cushman house and property at different times, going back to the early 1800's. He explained that this property first went on the market a couple of years ago for \$1,200,000.00. (1.2 million dollars). It did not sell at that price. The price is now offered to the Town for \$500,000.00. Mr. Canada stated that "To put the price in perspective, our Assessor, Andrea Lewy, values the first acre of land in our Professional/Residential zone at \$325,000.00. Due to being a corner lot with long road frontage, this parcel comprises 2 such lots indicating a value of \$650,000.00. That is for the land alone with no consideration for the building." Mr. Canada stated that the Selectmen feel this is an excellent long range planning move. The Selectmen feel that Stratham will continue to be a growing community for decades ahead. There will be less and less available land, and at the same time we will have increasing demands for municipal services. Mr. Canada gave several possible uses for this land. He stated that it could become a new municipal center, library, parking lot, senior citizen center or community center. It could also become a recreation center. Mr. Canada stated "How this land will be used will all depend on how the Town grows and how our needs evolve." Mr. Canada then stated that as far as the building itself, it is in excellent structural condition. It was well-built, and has been well cared for over the years. The Selectmen are hoping to lease it out for office space, and negotiate no rent other than taxes in exchange for rehabilitation of the building. Mr. Canada stated that the Board of Selectmen recommends this purchase from a planning perspective as well as for its historical value. He stated that we have already lost many of the old historical buildings in Stratham, and he hopes we don't lose this one as well. Moderator Dave Emanuel then asked for questions or discussions from the floor. Pat Abrami, 9 Tall Pines Dr. asked if this property would be taken off the tax rolls. Mr. Canada stated that the tax would be made up by leasing the property. Mr. Abrami also

asked the rate of the bond. Mr. Canada explained there would be five bonds, \$100,000.00 for each year, but they would be at a very low and favorable rate. Nick Kardoose of 24 Balmoral Dr. asked if the Board would clarify the tax impact on the residents. Mr. Kardoose stated it is a hardship with this economy. Mr. Deschaine explained that there is no impact on the taxes this year for Article 9 other than the \$12,000.00 in interest. Mr. Kardoose asked about the one time fee of \$148.00 for each household. Mr. Canada explained that that refers to Article 12, and buying the property outright, rather than through the bonds that are being discussed now in Article 9. If Article 9 passes, it will be about \$30.00 per household each year for five years. If Article 12 passes and Article 9 is defeated, there will be a one time charge of \$142.00 to the taxpayers. If Article 9 passes, Article 12 will not be taken up. Eric Von Der Linden of 11 Hickory Pond Lane asked what the cost would be to rehabilitate the building if there are no tenants. Mr. Canada responded that we have not calculated the costs as it is not their intention to take that up at this point. The Selectmen feel very strongly that there will be tenants interested in this property. Mr. Von Der Linden asked if the town would be on the hook to rehabilitate this building for these costs if a tenant or partner could not be found. Mr. Canada responded that we would keep the building secure until a partner could be found. Marty Wool, Winnicutt Rd wished to thank the Town for the kind words regarding the dedication to himself and Fred Hutton. He stated that “we are both not done, and we will continue to be involved with the Town.” Marty then went on to state that Article 9 is a great idea, and the best way to do it is with the bonds. There will be less impact on the residents over the five year term of the bonds. Marty went on to state that he hopes we can find a partner to lease the house sooner rather than later, as there is nothing worse than an empty house. Tedd Tramaloni, 2 Scamman Rd. asked if Article 9 and Article 12 fails, what would happen then. Mr. Emanuel responded that we would not be purchasing the Cushman property. Mr. Tramaloni then asked if one of the articles were to pass, is the Town responsible for the maintenance of the grounds and building. Mr. Emanuel responded that yes, the Town is responsible as it becomes Town property. Rebecca Mitchell, 200 Portsmouth Ave. stated that she wished to read a statement as the Chairman of the Stratham Heritage Commission explaining why this house matters. She went on to explain that the Heritage Commission is calling this house the “Bartlett/Cushman” house because it has essentially been in the hands of only two families for the last two centuries. Becky went on to give a history of the Bartlett family. She stated that Dr. Josiah Bartlett, (1768-1838) was born in Kingston, NH. He was a son of Josiah Bartlett, a signer of the Declaration of Independence, and later Governor and Chief Justice of the State. In 1792, Dr. Bartlett moved to Stratham where he began his medical practice and married a daughter of Paine Wingate. He was a founding member of the NH Medical Society and was elected to the US Congress. He was also active in Town and County political and civic affairs. Widowed, he married Hannah Weeks of Greenland. He had no children. Bartlett Papers in the Library of Congress indicate that Dr. Bartlett built the house on the corner of Bunker Hill Ave. in the summer of 1811. In 1824, Dr. Bartlett’s nephew, Josiah Bartlett III, (1803-1853) moved to Stratham to join his uncle’s medical practice. He had six children. He and his wife lived in the house that the Town now proposes to purchase. The Stratham map of 1892 indicates that the house was still in the Bartlett family hands at that date. The Library of Congress Bartlett Papers contain extensive documentation of the family’s life in Stratham and of Town affairs in

general. Becky went on to state that the house you see today looks much like it did in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. She stated that those Stratham men built well, it was built to last, and it was built for beauty. Becky wanted to draw attention to the vision statement of the master plan, which states, "The Town of Stratham desires to maintain a well planned community with protected natural resources and historical resources." Becky went on to say that Stratham has been a leader in the State with the steps we have taken to protect our natural resources but we have taken few, if any, concrete steps to collectively take responsibility for our historic resources. She concluded that we must act together to halt and reverse the deterioration of our heritage. Becky finished with her statement that there is no better or more deserving place to start that than with the purchase of this property. Pat Abrami, 12 Tall Pines Dr. stated that he supports this article. He stated that this train only comes by once in a while, and we should seize this opportunity. He also stated that he supports the bond option for three reasons. One, that there are people who come and go, and it would not be fair to hit them with all of the taxes for the purchase of this property if they are planning on moving next year. It would also only be fair for the newcomers who move in next year to share in the cost of this over the five year period. Secondly, we do have residents with limited means in town, as well as elderly on fixed incomes, and this would be less of an impact if we spread the cost over five years. Last, Pat stated that the bond rates are very low right now. He reiterated that he is supporting this article. Dan Fairbanks, 13 Apple Way asked if the Town buys the property and they decide in ten or twenty years to build a community center or parking lot, would the house be torn down, or is the plan to save the house permanently and whatever happens to the property has to happen around the house. Mr. Canada responded that the intention and hope would be to never tear that house down. Tedd Tramaloni, 2 Scamman Rd. wanted to clarify that there are no plans to impose any covenants that would require private partnership to preserve any of the historical aspects of this house. Mr. Emanuel stated that yes; this article only concerns the bond issue, and has nothing to do with the rental contracts of this property. Mr. Canada responded that there will be a very detailed contract with covenants concerning any kind of work done on this property. The whole idea is to get this property rented, and have the tenant fix it up with the cost going to the tenant in exchange for free rent. Michael McCarthy, 7 Kirriemuir Rd. asked to move the question. Roger Stephenson, 22 Stephen Dr. stated that he wanted to applaud whoever's idea this was. He stated that the "Bartlett /Cushman" house is a keeper, and it can only be kept if we do vote yes on Article 9. He wanted to point out that we will have an extraordinary opportunity when the property of Walter and Mary Smyk is deeded to the Town for the use of a public park. The library, the police station, and the Cushman property, along with the Smyk property, allows this all to be brought together and protected with the passing of this article. He concluded that he supports this article. Mr. Canada wanted to make one last point, and that was in regard to the signalization at the intersection of Portsmouth Ave. and Bunker Hill Ave. He stated that this is desperately needed, but it is not even on the ten year plan with the State. However, if we own this property, along with the Smyk property, we will control that intersection; and therefore, we will be able to widen that intersection which will be valuable in getting the State to act on this. Seeing no further questions or comments from the floor, Mr. Emanuel stated that we will move the vote on Article 9. Mr. Emanuel read the question and directed the residents to the area where the voting would take place. He then gave directions on the voting

process for the written ballot. He further explained that the polls would be open for one hour, and the polls are now open at 2010 hours. Once the polls were closed and the votes were counted, it was announced by Mr. Emanuel that Article 9 passed. The results were 128 yes, and 28 no. Joyce Charbonneau, Town Clerk made a motion to restrict reconsideration for Article 9, it was seconded by Nathan Merrill, the motion passed and reconsideration was restricted on Article 9.

### **Article 10 – 2013 Operating Budget**

To see if the Town will raise and appropriate Five Million Five Hundred Seventy Thousand Four Hundred Eleven Dollars and no cents (\$5,570,411.00) to defray general town charges for the ensuing year. The Board of Selectmen recommends this Article by unanimous vote. Selectman David Canada moved to accept this article as read. Selectman Tim Copeland seconded the motion. Selectman David Canada spoke for the motion. Mr. Canada first thanked the members of the Budget Committee for their help with the budget: Gary Dolan, Nate Merrill, Mike Perfit, June Sawyer, and Travis Thompson. Mr. Canada explained that for every \$100,000.00 we appropriate for tonight, it will add 8.3 cents to the tax rate. He went on to highlight the major budget changes. He stated that overall, the operating budget is up \$141,832.00 or 4.5%. Offsetting this is a 4.1% drop in the CIP. Along with the warrant articles and adjustments to retained funds, the bottom line result is a 2% reduction in what we will raise for taxes for Town Operations this year if everything passes. This does not include changes and charges to the tax rate for the Schools, the County and the State. He referred to the screen at the front of the room for the purpose of this discussion. Mr. Canada pointed out the total Payroll and Personnel/Administration line makes up for 50% of the budget. This includes FICA and retirement. He stated that on the Revenue side of the budget, every category was up with the exception of what we receive from the State, as they continue to downshift costs to us locally. Mr. Canada stated that payroll and ancillary costs are up \$70,000.00 from 2012. The reason for this is that the BOS awarded 2% COLA (cost of living) this year to all employees. Each employee is also reviewed and when appropriate, a merit increase is given as well. Mr. Canada pointed out that Training and Licensing is up due to a change in the accounting system. The new software is much better than the old one; however, the transition to the new system does have its challenges, thus the increase in training. The hours have been increased in the Town Clerk/Tax Collectors Office, and that adds an increase of \$4500.00 to payroll. There is an increase in the I.T. (Information Technology) Department, due to Paul Wolf, our I.T. person, providing services to the Fire Department. State Retirement is the biggest single increase this year, due to the State Retirement Program which the Town participates in. This added 45,500.00 to our budget. The hiring of a part-time staff person to Planning and Building added \$15000.00 to the budget. Mr. Canada went over the increases for the rest of the departments: Police is up due to the cost of equipping the new car, overtime, training, uniforms and gas. Fire Department is up due to training, new equipment and maintenance. At this time, Mr. Canada thanked the Volunteer Fire Department for their services to the Town. The Highway Dept had an increase of \$6600.00 due to equipment and an increase in fuel, but overall their budget is down \$17,000.00 due to a decrease in use in the salt budget. Public Works increased \$10,000.00 due to matching funds for



grants. Requests for Stratham Hill Park are up \$10,000.00 due to seasonal labor, grounds maintenance, and window replacement in the caretaker's cottage. The Recreation Department is up \$18,000.00 due to special program staffing for summer camps, intern costs, field maintenance, and salary increases. The library is up \$9300.00 due to expansion of their programs. Mr. Canada went over the decreases in the budget. The decreases in the Budget include Building and Repairs Maintenance, Sand and Salt, Trash Services, Welfare, Heritage Commission and Interest on the debt. The income increases in the budget includes \$42,000.00 from the Town Clerk's office, due to interest and fees on taxes, and motor vehicle registrations. Other income increases includes insurance refunds, a school resource office for the Exeter Regional Cooperative School District, and Recreational fees. Mr. Canada stated that this is the budget but wanted to go over some future costs, including paving and road construction. He stated that we are going to develop a Master Paving Plan in order to keep our roads in great shape while keeping budget fluctuations down. The second article Mr. Canada wanted to bring to our attention was Selectmen's Compensation. The Budget Committee has wanted to increase the Selectmen's compensation over the last several years. It has been over twenty years since there has been a change. The Selectmen unanimously rejected their offer. They are happy with their current compensation. However, due to the Budget Committee's urging, the Selectmen have agreed to go on record to support the offer of an increase in compensation for 2015. This will be the year that the current Selectmen's terms will expire. Mr. Canada concluded with "What you have in front of you is the result of a level tax rate assuming that Article 9 passes. We appreciate the support you have given us in past years, and hope that you will support tonight's request as well." Moderator Dave Emanuel asked for any questions or comments from the floor. Marty Wool, Winnicutt Rd. asked everyone to refer to the chart on Appropriations and Expenditures that can be found on page 100 in the Town Report. He asked how much of the total of the unexpended balance which is \$1,458,000.00 would be used for an overlay, and how much would be used to reduce taxes. Mr. Deschaine responded that they are anticipating \$484,000.00 to be used against taxes. He also stated that there has to be a reserved balance to have a cash flow and to make payroll, because taxes are billed only twice a year. Mr. Wool also asked about the line item from Public Works, and their unexpended balance of \$11,300.00, the Economic Development Committee's unexpended balance of \$4561.00 and the Town Center's Committee unexpended balance of \$5382.00. Mr. Deschaine responded that the Public Works Commission was looking at the costs of moving forward with the water and sewage issues and money was not needed to support that effort as talks with Exeter proved very fruitful. Mr. Deschaine stated that in regard to the Economic Development Committee, they had anticipated using a consultant to direct some focus groups, and they were able to find a free consultant service. Lastly, he explained that the Town Center was focusing their efforts on the new Town Center signs, which is a Capital item and that took more time than anticipated, so they did not have the opportunity to use their operating budget last year, but he is sure they will have activities planned for this year. Seeing no other questions or comments from the floor, Mr. Emanuel read the question, the vote was taken in the affirmative, and Article 10 passed.

## **Article 11 CIP**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of One Million Two Hundred Fourteen Thousand Five Hundred Dollars and no cents (\$1,214,500.00) to implement the Capital Improvements Program (CIP) for 2013 as presented in the Town Report and approved by the Planning Board. This is a special warrant article which will be non-lapsing until the specific items are completed or obtained but shall in no case be later than five (5) years from the appropriation per NH RSA 32:7 (VI). The Board of Selectmen recommends this Article by unanimous vote. Selectman Bruno Federico moved to accept this article as read. Selectman David Canada seconded the motion. Selectman Federico spoke to the motion. Mr. Federico explained that the Capital Improvement Program funds those items that need to change from year to year as the planning process changes. Mr. Federico stated that there are four major components in the CIP: General Government, Protection of Personal Property, Public Works and Highways, and Cultural and Recreational Activities. Mr. Federico explained almost half of the amount requested is for debt service and principal payments in the Persons and Property section. The Public Safety Complex, the Gifford Property, and the Conservation/Firehouse bond make up these three items totaling \$489,000.00. Mr. Federico then went on to explain each line item under each of the major components which can be found on page 83 of the Town Report. Moderator Emanuel asked for questions or comments from the floor. Roger Stephenson, Stephen Dr. asked for a point of clarification. He stated he didn't see the Jones/Goodrich bond itemized in the CIP. Mr. Deschaine explained that when we went out to the Municipal Bond Bank, the issuance occurred in late December 2012, and the first due date will be February of 2014. He explained that next year you will see the principal portion in the Capital Improvements Program. Marty Wool, Winnicutt Rd. asked about the Municipal Center Parking Lot improvement line that has \$100,000.00 requested, and wanted to know much money is in that account right now. Mr. Deschaine responded that there is \$156,470.00 in that line. Mr. Wool then asked if it was going to cost over \$200,000.00 to fix the lot. Mr. Deschaine responded yes, but not only to fix it, but expand it, and improve the drainage, and also to put in the lower back development features. Mr. Wool then asked about the Town Center sign plan, and what is going on with the current signs that we already have. Mr. Canada responded that \$3000.00 was spent on the signs, but two of the four signs were damaged due to the North East Storm "Sandy". He stated that we are negotiating with "Sign of the Times", an Exeter firm that sold the Town the signs. The BOS are hoping they will make good on the signs. Mr. Canada stated their plan is to replace the signs, and then litigate with the firm if necessary to get our money back on the original signs. It is the Selectmen's opinion that the signs were clearly not suitable for New England weather. Mr. Wool then asked about the Police Vehicle Replacement Program and wondered about the \$30,000.00 that is out to 2018. He asked if we could buy a cruiser for \$30,000.00. Mr. Federico responded that we went from a three year lease program to a yearly purchase program where we are going to replace one vehicle every year. Mr. Canada further explained that we have a SUV that was donated years ago to the Town that has seen better days. This fund is to replace that SUV if necessary, but the money may not be expended if the all wheel drive vehicles that are going to be purchased prove satisfactory. With no further questions or comments from the floor, Moderator Dave Emanuel read the question, the vote was taken in the affirmative, and Article 11 passed.

## **Article 12 – Cushman Property Purchase if Article 9 Fails**

Should Article 9 fail, to see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to purchase on behalf of the Town the property of the Cushman Trust at 82 Portsmouth Avenue, Stratham, NH (Tax Map 13 Lot 127) and to further raise and appropriate the sum of Five Hundred Thousand Dollars and no cents (\$500,000.00) for this purpose. This is a special warrant article which will be non-lapsing until the specific items are completed or obtained but shall in no case be later than five (5) years from this appropriation per NH RSA 32:7 (VI).

**Article 12 is null and void as Article 9 Passed.**

## **Article 13 – Town Buildings and Grounds Maintenance Expendable Trust Fund**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Twenty Five Thousand Dollars and no cents (\$25,000.00) to be deposited into the “Town Buildings and Grounds Maintenance Expendable Trust Fund” as created by the March 16, 2012 Town Meeting. The Board of Selectmen recommends this Article by unanimous vote. Selectman Bruno Federico moved to accept this article as read. Selectman Tim Copeland seconded the motion. Selectman Federico spoke to the motion. Mr. Federico explained that we created this fund last year. He stated that over the past year, we have taken a detailed inventory of all the septic and well systems, as well as roofs, and the fire suppression systems under the Town. Most of these items are going to need repairs, and we created this trust fund so this money would be available when an emergency occurs to rectify the situation. Mr. Federico stated we are asking for \$25,000.00 to put into this trust fund. Moderator Emanuel then asked for questions or comments from the floor. Seeing none, Mr. Emanuel read the question, the vote was taken in the affirmative, and Article 13 passed.

## **Article 14 – Blind Exemptions**

To see if the Town will vote to adopt the provisions of NH RSA 72:37 creating a Fifteen Thousand Dollar and no cents (\$15,000.00) annual exemption from the assessed value of the residential real estate owned by a person who is legally blind. The Board of Selectmen recommends this article by unanimous vote. Selectman Tim Copeland moved to accept this article as read. Selectman Bruno Federico seconded the motion. Selectman Copeland spoke to the motion. He explained that this is simply a housekeeping rule as we cannot find documentation that we have complied with NH RSA 72:37 in the past. He further explained that the State authorities brought it to our attention, and so this is just a housekeeping rule that we have it, and that it has been voted on properly at Town Meeting. Mr. Emanuel then asked for questions or comments from the floor. Seeing none, Mr. Emanuel read the question, the vote was taken in the affirmative, and Article 14 passed.

## **Article 15 – EMS Fund Appropriation**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Twenty Nine Thousand Dollars and no cents (\$29,000.00) for the following purposes:

EMS/EMT First Responder Training    \$19,000.00

ALS Services Contract                      \$10,000.00

and to further authorize the withdrawal of Twenty Nine Thousand Dollars and no cents (\$29,000.00) from the Stratham Fire Department EMS Special Revenue Fund created for these purposes during the March 17, 2000 Annual Town Meeting and as amended during the March 11, 2005 Town Meeting. No additional funds from general taxation are to be used. The Board of Selectmen recommends this Article by unanimous vote. Selectman Tim Copeland moved to accept this article as read. Selectman David Canada seconded the motion. Selectman Copeland spoke to the motion. Mr. Copeland explained this article has to be brought to Town Meeting every year. He explained that this is no cost to you in tax dollars. This is just revenue that is produced by ambulance billing. It comes through the town, the money is raised, and then it is put in a special account. It has to be voted on every year by you so it can be taken out of this special account and put towards the EMS training. Mr. Copeland then explained that the ALS (Advanced Life Support System)) Service Contract is new, but this is also money that is in and out. The billing process is through Medicaid, and Medicaid has to be paid before the funds are recovered. Mr. Emanuel then asked for questions or comments from the floor. Seeing none, Mr. Emanuel read the question, the vote was taken in the affirmative, and Article 15 passed.

#### **Article 16 – Term of Leases of Municipal Property**

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to rent or lease municipal property for a term of up to 5 years without further vote or ratification of the Town. Once so adopted, this authority shall remain in effect until specifically rescinded by a future Town Meeting, duly warned, provided that the term of any lease entered into prior to the rescission shall remain in effect. The Board of Selectmen recommends this Article by unanimous vote. Selectman Tim Copeland moved to accept this article as read. Selectman David Canada seconded the motion. Selectman Copeland spoke to the motion. Mr. Copeland explained that this will give the Selectmen the ability to lease or rent for a five year term rather than the current one year term that currently exists. Moderator Emanuel asked for questions or comments from the floor. Lucy Cushman, Winnicutt Rd. stated she has no concerns for renting any of the municipal properties that are buildings for five years. She explained her concern was that the language in the article was too broad. She stated that a few years ago, there was an article brought up about putting a cell tower in the Town Hall parking lot. It was presented at Town Meeting because the lease would have been for more than one year. That article was voted down. She went on to explain that if this article passes tonight, the Selectmen can put a cell tower up without getting permission at Town Meeting. Lucy wanted to offer an amendment to this article. She asked to insert the words “existing buildings” between “lease” and “on municipal properties.” Mr. Emanuel asked if there was a second to the amendment. Mr. Wool seconded the amendment. Mr. Emanuel opened the discussion for questions pertaining to the amendment. Jeremy Riecks, Doe Run Lane stated that he supported the amendment that was made. Mr. Canada responded that a cell tower is a huge capital investment, and no one is going to do that on a five year lease. He stated

that would be more in line with a twenty year lease. Mr. Canada stated that he would be concerned that this is not statutorily allowed. Mr. Canada stated he does not support the amendment, and that this is a simple matter, and a simple measure, and there are no hidden agendas. Gary Dolan, 15 Jana Lane asked how the amendment would effect the leasing of the Cushman house if the amendment gets voted in. Mr. Copeland responded that this amendment will effect the leasing of the Cushman property. Mr. Copeland stated that he did not think we would be able to lease the Cushman property for five years if this amendment passed, and it would be extremely difficult to rent it on a one year lease. Roger Stephenson, Stephen Dr. asked if leases come up as a public hearing at the Selectmen's meetings. Mr. Canada responded that no, they do not. Mr. Federico clarified that leases are handled by the Board of Selectmen, but not at public meetings. Mr. Wool, Winnicutt Rd. stated that he refutes that the Cushman property would not be covered under this amendment. He stated that he did not feel there would be a problem. Mr. Canada responded that the Cushman property is not ours until we actually go through with the closing. Mr. Canada feels that the Cushman house will not be allowed to be leased for five years if the amendment passes. Lucy Cushman, Winnicutt Rd. clarified her amendment, and reiterated the words she wanted inserted, which is "existing buildings". She went on to state that "although this article looks innocent, who knows in ten or fifteen years from now how a Board of Selectmen will interpret it." Mr. Copeland stated that the language presented on the amended article will affect the Cushman property. He stated that we will not be able to lease it as it is written. Mr. Copeland recommended two options, one was to take out the word "existing", and just insert the word "buildings", or two, vote down the amendment, and vote for the original article. Mr. Emanuel then read the article with the original amendment that now reads as "To see if the Town will vote to authorize the BOS to rent or lease existing buildings on municipal property for a term of up to 5 years without further vote or ratification of the Town. Once so adopted, this authority shall remain in effect until specifically rescinded by a future Town Meeting, duly warned, provided that the terms of any lease entered into prior to the rescission shall remain in effect." Mr. Emanuel then asked for the vote on the amendment, and the No's had it, and the amendment for Article 16 failed. Mr. Wool asked for a division of the floor regarding the results of the amendment. Mr. Emanuel instructed on the process for the division of the floor, a hand count was initiated, and the votes were counted. Mr. Emanuel then announced the results, and confirmed that the No's did have it; the count was 48 Yes, and 62 No. Mr. Emanuel declared the article had failed. Lucy Cushman, Winnicutt Rd. then offered a second amendment, and asked to insert just the word "buildings on" and leave out the word "existing" from the first amendment. The amendment was seconded by several residents. Mr. Emanuel then read the article with the recommended second amendment by Lucy Cushman, and it would read "To see if the Town will vote and authorize the BOS to rent or lease buildings on municipal property" if the amendment passes. Mr. Emanuel then asked for questions or comments on the second amendment. Mr. Von Der Linden stated that he was concerned about the impact for someone to come in and give us revenue for something. He used the example of the Exeter Pool, and how they are looking to lease it out for swim type events, and they have a company coming in to potentially put a bubble over it. Mr. Emanuel responded that he understood his point but he clarified that it would have to go before the Town to approve it, not the BOS. Mr. Copeland wanted to reiterate that he is

for the original article, and he is not for the second amendment on this article. Roger Stephenson, Stephen Dr. wanted to point out that the Town does own 35 acres adjacent to the Squamscott River. He stated that without this amendment that land could be subject to this Article. Mr. Stephenson stated he would support this article. Jeremy Riecks, Doe Run Lane, asked if this would allow the Selectmen to sign a lease, and then put a septic system on it. Mr. Canada responded that the BOS does have the authority to do that, but it would be too big a capital investment to take on in a five year lease. Phil Caparso, River Rd. asked about the likelihood of renting or leasing this property with just a one year lease, and also asked “wouldn’t the Town be responsible for the renovation and maintenance of this property if we are unable to get a tenant?” Mr. Emanuel responded that what he heard the Selectmen say was that if the lease was in excess of five years, it will come before the body only. Cheryl Ewart, 7 Smith Farm Rd. asked what would happen if this amendment gets voted through, and then it is determined that it is not legal. Mr. Canada responded that the D.R.A. (Dept. of Revenue) would rule that the article has failed. Janice Wayne, Depot Rd. asked why this article was created. Mr. Deschaine responded that the statute was amended, and prior to amending, you could not lease municipal property for more than one year. He went on to state, that in the past, we have had tenants who asked to lease for five years, and prior to the State amending the term of leasing, we had to refuse them. Cindy Stark Jones, Winnicutt Rd. asked if the D.R.A. decides that the amendment does not work, can we bring it before a special meeting. Mr. Canada responded that yes, we could, but it would be at an added expense, time and planning. Roger Stephenson, Stephen Dr. stated that the Selectmen’s intentions are “buildings” in this article, and he supports this amendment and moves the question. Mr. Emanuel stated we are now voting on just the amendment, he then read the question with adding the words “buildings on”, the vote was taken in the affirmative, and the amendment passed. Mr. Emanuel then reopened the floor for discussion on Article 16 as amended. Tedd Tramaloni, Scamman Rd. stated that he had a business, and had a lease for one year. He wanted to point out that he never had a problem with his one year lease. Tedd stated he is against Article 16. Pat Abrami, Tall Pines Dr. stated this bill was thoroughly vetted by the State before they changed the statute. Mr. Abrami stated that he supports this article. Mr. Copeland encouraged everyone to support this article, and used the example of the Cushman property, and how hard it will be to lease this property for one year if this article does not pass. Seeing no further questions, Mr. Emanuel read Article 16 as amended, the vote was taken in the affirmative and Article 16 as amended passed.

### **Article 17 – Accrued Benefits Trust Fund**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Twenty Thousand Dollars and no cents (\$20,000.00) to be deposited into the Accrued Benefits Liability Expendable Trust Fund as created by the March 16, 2007 Town Meeting to meet the currently unfunded obligations of the Town. The Board of Selectmen recommends this Article by unanimous vote. Selectman Bruno Federico moved to accept this article as read. Selectman Tim Copeland seconded the motion. Selectman Federico spoke to the motion. He explained that this is a fund that was created several years ago. This enables the town to pay accrued benefits owed to employees who are retiring or leaving without

the Town having to borrow the money. Mr. Emanuel then asked for questions or comments from the floor. Seeing none, Mr. Emanuel read the question, the vote was taken in the affirmative, and Article 17 passed.

## **Article 18 – Stratham Plaza Easement**

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to grant a limited easement to Stratham Plaza Commercial Condominium Association on a portion of Town-Owned property at 10 Bunker Hill Avenue (Tax Map 13 Lot 129) for the purpose of siting, constructing, and operating a subsurface septic system by the Association, and to further authorize the Board of Selectmen to negotiate under what terms and conditions the easement shall be conveyed. The Board of Selectmen recommends this Article by unanimous vote. Selectman David Canada moved to accept this article as read. Selectman Tim Copeland seconded the motion. Selectman Canada spoke to the motion. Mr. Canada stated when the Great Bay Community College moved out of Stratham, we lost the use of two softball fields at that location. He stated that we are also planning to rebuild the Municipal Center parking lot this year. Part of the parking lot involves digging up the hill behind the existing lot. He explained with these two issues, we had two problems: where to put the excavated fill from the hill, and how to replace the lost athletic fields from Great Bay. Mr. Canada pointed out that we decided we could take the fill from the hill and move it onto the unused scrub land behind the current softball field that we own behind the Municipal Center. Mr. Canada also stated that last year, the Management of the Stratham Plaza came to the BOS and asked if we would consider an easement allowing them to build a leach field on that unused back land. Mr. Canada said “We saw an arrangement could be made that would promote the needs of a local business, while allowing significant costs avoidance to the Town. We looked into the logistics of having a playfield over a leach field and found out that it was not a problem.” Mr. Canada referred to the screen in the front of the room showing the land in question. He pointed out the septic design that would go in, and the existing ball field. He also pointed out the Greenland soccer fields that did something similar to what Stratham is proposing. He explained that if this article passes, the scrub land behind the current field will be a flat grass field ready to be made into a ball field at no costs to the town. He stated that it will cost to develop the grass field into what ever kind of playing field the Town decides on, but we will be starting with a good grass field. He went on to say that “We will also have the excavation behind the Town Hall taken care of. Over \$100,000.00 in identified needs will be taken care of by the Stratham Plaza. In return, there will be an out of sight, and out of mind leach field under the field. This leach field will only be used until the Town gets sewer services on Portsmouth Ave., at which time the Plaza will decommission the field and hook into the Municipal system. The Conservation Commission, the Economic Development Committee, and the Planning Board are all in favor of this Article. The BOS feel that this is total win for the Town, with no adverse effects whatsoever.” Mr. Canada concluded with “This is a long term benefit to the town, in exchange for a short term benefit with one of our local business partners. We hope you will approve this plan tonight.” Moderator Emanuel then opened up the floor for questions or comments from the floor. Tedd Tramolini, Scamman Rd. asked about the maintenance on the septic field and if that would be the responsibility of

Stratham Plaza. Mr. Canada responded that yes, it would be the responsibility of the Plaza. Jeremy Riecks, Doe Run Lane asked why would the Selectmen grant an easement if the existing system is functional. Mr. Canada explained that we will have over \$100,000.00 in identified needs taken care of by the Stratham Plaza. Mr. Riecks asked who is responsible for the maintenance of the system 20 years down the road which may be 15 years after it is decommissioned. Mr. Canada responded that when it is shut off, and no longer needed, the Management of Stratham Plaza will take everything with them, as far as the pipes and D boxes, etc. Mr. Riecks wanted to go on record that he is against this article. Bruce Scamman, 3 Blossom Lane stated he is against this article. His concerns revolved around the value of what we are getting and what the commercial entity is getting. He also had concerns about the leach field and the well. Jeremy Riecks, Doe Run Lane wanted to remind everyone that the septic system at the BMW failed a couple of years ago after a very short period of time and had to be replaced. Pat Elwell, Strawberry Lane stated that she is on the Conservation Commission, and that they are in complete support of this article. She pointed out that this is a short term solution, and once the Town gets water and sewer, the Plaza will be hooking up to the Town's system. Pat stated that this is a short term solution that offers a lot of benefits to the Town. If something fails, the business is going to be responsible for correcting it. Pat feels we should be supporting businesses in Town, and in this instance, the Town will benefit from this. Lucy Cushman, Winnicutt Rd. stated that she is against this article. She stated that this would set a precedent. She stated that the developer would use the current site for something else in addition to the Stratham Plaza whether it is a building or signs or whatever. She stated that "Once we start saying that it is o.k. to use a septic system for one commercial entity, where does it end?" Mr. Canada responded that we would be setting a precedent that is a good precedent to set, and we would consider any proposition that is brought before the BOS. He stated that if we can do something without harm to the Town, but with value to the Town, then that proposition will be considered. He stated "We are happy to help out our public partners. They pay 15% of the taxes, and businesses do not send children to our schools." Jim Marsden, Winterberry Lane, stated he was at the public hearing, and heard the engineers' reports regarding this proposition, and the potential tax benefits to the Town. He is speaking now on behalf of the softball board. He stated the softball program is really thriving. He explained that we have a great need for softball fields. Mr. Marsden wanted to thank the creative minds who came up with this proposal. He feels that it is a real benefit to the Town, and a huge benefit to the softball program. He stated that we need this additional field that is being proposed in this article. Mr. Marsden stated that "On behalf of the softball board we strongly support this article." Bob Fitzsimmons, Pond View Dr. stated that Stratham Plaza is a non-profit condo association, and he is an owner of one of the condos. He stated the whole idea is to make the buildings look better. He further stated that the loan for this project is going to cost \$450,000.00. He went on to say that "If we cannot move the septic, we are not going to be able to do this project. If this article does not pass, the building that is there now will continue to deteriorate. The plan, if this passes, is to put another building out front, and to make it look like part of the Gateway Building Code with trees and benches and new parking." Cindy Stark Jones, Winnicutt Rd. asked what protection does the Town have if the building is sold, or the current owner goes bankrupt. Mr. Canada responded that if there is any type of failure, or if they can't meet the terms



of the contract, the system will be shut off. Cindy then asked how long, if the septic system fails, will the land be free and clear so it can be sold or used for other purposes. Mr. Canada responded that there are no plans for this land to be sold. It will either be used for a ball field, or stand empty. Marty Wool, Winnicutt Rd. stated that this is not a good idea, precedent wise. He stated that we are “over-trying” to help the businesses. Mr. Copeland responded that the easement will list all the things that the property owner can and cannot do. He stated that we enlisted Bruce Scamman, and the designs are going to go out to another civil engineer to look at to concur with their design. If it does not concur, they will have to redesign it. He stated that “All of the safeguards have been put in place by us.” He further stated that “This is positive for the business and the partnership of the Town promoting business and the Town is getting a new field out of it at no cost to you and with minimal dollars at the end for the dugouts and the fence for the softball field.” Mr. Copeland stated that he would encourage you to vote for this. Jim Marsden, Winterberry Lane, wanted to clarify that there are no other plans for that field other than to build a softball field. Mr. Copeland responded in the affirmative. Stephen Simons, Vineyard Dr. asked if the owner puts up additional buildings, wouldn’t he pay proportionately more taxes for those buildings so the tax roll will go up. The BOS responded in the affirmative. Mr. Federico stated as a member of the Economic Commission, the businesses in town are stating to the Commission that the Town is not receptive to business. When businesses come into town, they are going to pay taxes. He stated that “When we encourage a business to grow, they are going to pay additional taxes. This makes your taxes go down. Businesses do not send kids to school.” He further stated that this is the number one driver of taxes in this town. Trinka Russell, Dundee Circle stated she is for this article. She stated that the buildings that sit there look awful with the hill in front and the pipes sticking out. If this article passes, it will look much better with the ball fields in the back, and it will be much more attractive on the main road. Pat Abrami, Tall Pines asked what would happen if the second engineer says there is a problem with the design. Mr. Canada responded that it will be redesigned until it is right, or if it can’t be corrected, it just won’t be done. Colleen Lake, Portsmouth Ave. stated a few years ago we were trying to build the Fire Department and the Emergency Center over by Portsmouth Ave. She stated that Lucy Cushman was in charge of the Fire Dept. Building, and Marty Wool was on the Board of Selectmen when they needed more property to build the Fire Department and Emergency Center. She pointed out that Marty signed the easement to use some of her property to better the Town, and it all worked out. She stated that with the economy we have had in the last four or five years, these businesses are still standing, and that they are good business people. Colleen stated that “We need a restaurant, and we need what Gateway tried to do, and these businesses are standing up for us.” Colleen concluded with “Shared property is not a bad thing. We are not the first to come up with this idea. It is a good idea, and I support this article.” Seeing no further questions or comments from the floor, Mr. Emanuel read the question, the vote was taken in the affirmative, and Article 18 passed. A motion was made by Selectman David Canada to restrict reconsideration on Article 18. It was seconded by Selectman Tim Copeland. The motion passed and reconsideration was restricted on Article 18.

## **Article 19 – Other Business**

To transact any other business that may legally come before this meeting. Pat Abrami, Tall Pines Dr. gave an update on the public water/sewer system and where the State is at in getting this to the Municipalities. Marty Wool, Winnicutt Rd. asked what the Fire Protection Fund is that is mentioned in the Town Report on page 90. Selectman Federico responded that this fund is donations from businesses for fire protection. Mr. Wool also asked about the line in the Town Report labeled “other assets” and stated the Fair should have some money in there under the control of the Treasurer. Mr. Canada responded that it is under the control of the Trustees of the Trust Fund. Mr. Deschaine stated that on page 107, the reorganization of those funds was transferred by the Trustees of the Trust Funds before the end of the year. The last three entries on page 107 refer to this. Selectman Copeland announced that the Conservation Commission will be holding their annual clean up day on Saturday, April 6 at 9 a.m. They will meet at the Stratham Hill Park Pavilion. The rain date for this event is April 13. He also announced that the Commission has some compost bins still available for sale. Mr. Copeland announced that the Conservation Commission has established the Caroline Robinson Memorial Collection at the Wiggin Memorial Library. Donations of funds or books related to conservation or gardening can be made in Caroline’s honor by anyone in the community. A special bookplate will be added to those books donated to Caroline’s memorial collection. Mr. Copeland also announced that the Commission would like to encourage you to sign up for email notifications through the Town website. Selectman David Canada stated that there is not a single aspect of Stratham Town Government that is not helped along by a Board or a Commission or a Committee. Mr. Canada wanted to take this time to thank all the residents who volunteer and are on these Boards to help them manage Town Government. Anyone who wished to volunteer for this, please feel free to sign up on our website. Mr. Canada also thanked Mel McGrail and her volunteers for their service in keeping the public gardens around town beautiful. She is head of the Stratham Pocket Gardeners, and anyone who is interested in joining, can send an email to [stratham-pocketgardeners@comcast.net](mailto:stratham-pocketgardeners@comcast.net). Mr. Canada also asked any newly elected Town Officers to come to the front after the meeting is adjourned and be sworn in by the Town Clerk. Seeing no other business, Mr. Emanuel closed the meeting at 10:55 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Joyce L. Charbonneau  
Stratham Town Clerk