



**ABSENTEE
OFFICIAL BALLOT
ANNUAL TOWN ELECTION
BEDFORD, NEW HAMPSHIRE
MARCH 10, 2015**

BALLOT 1 OF 3

L. Radke
TOWN CLERK

INSTRUCTIONS TO VOTERS

- A. TO VOTE, completely fill in the OVAL to the RIGHT of your choice(s) like this: ●
- B. Follow directions as to the number of candidates to be marked for each office.
- C. To vote for a person whose name is not printed on the ballot, write the candidate's name on the line provided and completely fill in the OVAL.

ARTICLE 1: ELECTION OF TOWN OFFICES

TOWN COUNCIL <small>Vote for not For Three Years more than three (3)</small>	LIBRARY TRUSTEE <small>Vote for not For Three Years more than one (1)</small>	TRUSTEE OF THE TRUST FUNDS <small>Vote for not For Three Years more than one (1)</small>
MELISSA STEVENS 2008	WALTER GALLO 2182	KEN PETERSON 2148
BILL DUSCHATKO 1713	(Write-in)	(Write-in)
JOHN SCHNELLER 1209	(Write-in)	(Write-in)
FRANK SLEDJESKI 1201	(Write-in)	(Write-in)
(Write-in)	(Write-in)	(Write-in)
(Write-in)	(Write-in)	(Write-in)
(Write-in)	(Write-in)	(Write-in)
(Write-in)	(Write-in)	(Write-in)

TRUSTEE OF THE TRUST FUNDS <small>Vote for not For Two Years more than one (1)</small>
LAWRENCE CHEETHAM 1974
(Write-in)

ARTICLE 2: ZONING AMENDMENTS

Amendment No. 1

Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment No. 1 as proposed by the Planning Board for the Bedford Zoning Ordinance to amend Article 275-73 Signs, General Provisions by adding the following new paragraphs A & B, and renumbering existing paragraphs A-Q as needed:

A. Purposes

- (1) Encourage the effective use of signs as a means of communication;
- (2) Prevent hazards to vehicular and pedestrian safety by regulating the type, number, location, size and illumination of signs;
- (3) Protect the public from hazardous and distracting displays;
- (4) Maintain and enhance the aesthetic character and scenic quality of the Town's residential and commercial neighborhoods and limit visual clutter along corridors;
- (5) Minimize potential adverse effects of signs on nearby public and private property;
- (6) Support businesses and community vitality by informing the public of goods, services and activities; and
- (7) Enable fair and consistent enforcement of the sign regulations.

B. Conditional Use Permit

- (1) The Planning Board may grant a Conditional Use Permit to modify the requirements of Article IX-Signs, provided the Planning Board finds that all of the following criteria are met:
 - (a) The modification complies with the Purposes of the sign regulations as noted in Article 275-73 A;
 - (b) The applicant's particular situation, taking into account the overall site plan, including, but not limited to, the use on the property, existing signs, and visibility of the businesses, justifies a modification to the requirements;
 - (c) The site is suitable for the proposed modifications;



ARTICLE 2: ZONING AMENDMENTS CONTINUED

AMENDMENT NO. 1 CONTINUED

- (d) The modification will not alter the essential character of the locality;
 - (e) The modifications will complement the design of the building or site where the sign is located;
 - (f) The modification will not materially impair traffic or pedestrian safety;
 - (g) The aesthetic character of the site and the surrounding area **will not** be adversely affected; and
 - (h) The modification will be consistent with the spirit and **intent of the Zoning Ordinance** and Town of Bedford Master Plan.
- (2) An application for a Conditional Use Permit shall **provide adequate** documentation in order for the Planning Board to make a finding that the modification **meets the** criteria listed above. The Planning Board may, in its discretion, decline to grant a Conditional Use Permit, if the Board determines such permit is not justified or warranted.
- (3) This Section shall not apply to signs in **the Performance Zone**, under Article 275-68 and that are subject to the waiver provisions in Article 275-56.
- (4) This provision is adopted as an **innovative land use control** pursuant to RSA 674:21 and the Planning Board is vested with the **sole authority** to administer and grant the Conditional Use Permit. Any decision made by the Planning Board under this innovative land use control ordinance may be appealed directly to **Superior Court** in the same manner provided by statute for appeals from the Planning Board, as set forth in RSA 676:5 III and RSA 677:15.

2262
 YES
 NO
 368

[This amendment is intended to **allow the Planning Board** to grant relief to the signage ordinance provided the Conditional Use Criteria are met. Currently the Zoning Board of Adjustment grants relief to the signage ordinance through the variance process.]

Amendment No. 2

Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment No. 2 as proposed by the Planning Board for the Bedford Zoning Ordinance to amend Article 275-6 Definitions by adding the words in bold:

“Structure” – A combination of materials for occupancy or use, such as a building, bridge, trestle, tower, framework, an above ground tank or group of tanks exceeding 500 gallons, tunnel, tent, stadium, platform, shelter, pier, wharf, bin, sign, fences and retaining walls over six feet (6’) in height, swimming pools, sports courts **with fences over six feet (6’) in height**, or the like.

2065
 YES
 NO
 554

[This amendment is intended to allow sports courts with fences six feet (6’) in height or less, or no fence to be exempt from the minimum structure setback requirements.]

Amendment No. 3

Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment No. 3 as proposed by the Planning Board for the Bedford Zoning Ordinance as follows:

To amend Article 275-21 Use Regulations, Table 2, by adding Footnote 32 to the permitted use “Retail Sales Establishments” within the Performance Zone with the following language:

1552
 YES
 NO
 1042

Excluding the sale of automobiles, trucks, motorcycles, boats, snowmobiles, trailers, tractors, commercial construction equipment, mobile homes, camping vehicles, and similar types of vehicles.

To amend Article 275-61 Performance Zone Permitted Uses, by adding the words shown in bold to Subsection E, as follows:

Retail, wholesale and rental trades, commercial service, and repair facilities, **subject to Footnote 32 in Table 2, Table of Uses.**

[This amendment is intended to restrict the establishment of additional automobile and other dealerships within the Performance Zone.]

ARTICLE 3: PROPOSED CHARTER AMENDMENTS

PROPOSED CHARTER AMENDMENT #1

§ C3-15 Inquiries and investigations.

PROPOSED TEXT (changes bolded)

By an affirmative vote of five councilors, the Council may make investigation into the affairs of the Town and into the conduct of any Town agency or department and for this purpose may administer oaths and require the production of evidence.

1364
 YES
 NO
 1196

PURPOSE: *This Amendment requires an affirmative vote of 5 councilors, rather than a simple majority vote, to initiate investigations as set forth in the section.*



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BALLOT 2 OF 3

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ARTICLE 3: PROPOSED CHARTER AMENDMENTS CONTINUED

PROPOSED CHARTER AMENDMENT #2
§ C5-4 Final date for budget adoption.
PROPOSED TEXT (changes bolded)

The budget shall be brought before the Town Meeting **in March, on a date fixed by the Council.**

§ C9-2 Annual Budgetary Town Meeting.
PROPOSED TEXT (changes bolded)

Each year on a date in March fixed by the Council, the Council shall summon the voters of the Town to hear reports of the previous year's activities and of proposals for the current year and to vote on the Town budget for the coming year.

YES 2391
NO 211

PURPOSE: This Amendment reflects current state law and affects both Charter sections.

PROPOSED CHARTER AMENDMENT #3
§ C5-12 Purchasing procedure.
PROPOSED TEXT (changes bolded)

- A. **Definition. The acquisition of any and all equipment, materials, supplies and services using funds of the Town or in the fiduciary custody of the Town shall be deemed "Public Procurements".**
- B. **Procurement Policy. The Council shall adopt a Procurement Policy which shall establish purchasing and contracting procedures that shall apply to all departments. The policy shall ensure prudent use of Town resources, foster fair competition among providers and encourage cooperative purchasing among departments and with other governmental entities.**
- C. **Purchasing Agent. The Town Manager shall be the purchasing agent of the Town and shall ensure compliance with the Procurement Policy adopted by the Council. He or his designee shall approve all procurements, purchase orders and contracts in a manner consistent with the Policy.**
- D. **Policy Waivers. The Council may, by affirmative vote of five (5) of its members, waive any requirements of the Procurement Policy it deems appropriate to special circumstances, provided it publicly states and documents the circumstances warranting waiver and its reasons therefore.**

YES 2085
NO 452

PURPOSE: This Amendment instructs the council to establish a procurement policy within the parameters set out in this section rather than specifying the details of a procedure in the charter. It affords the Council flexibility to adapt to contemporary practices and waive policy via a super-majority vote when warranted. It also designates the Town Manager as purchasing and contracting agent for the Town.

PROPOSED CHARTER AMENDMENT #4
§ C6-3 Compensation.
PROPOSED TEXT (changes bolded)

- A. Elected and appointed officials ~~and department heads~~ **department heads.** The compensation of all elected and appointed officials ~~and department heads~~ shall be established and modified **by an affirmative vote of five councilors.**

YES 2013
NO 561

PURPOSE: This Amendment provides for an affirmative vote of 5 councilors to set or modify compensation of elected and appointed officials and removes department head compensation from council authority, placing it under authority of the town manager as with all other town employees.

PROPOSED CHARTER AMENDMENT #5
§ C7-2 Conflicts of interest.
PROPOSED TEXT (changes bolded)

Editor's Note: See Code of Ordinances, Chapter 13, Conflicts of Interest.

- C. **Any conflict recognized under New Hampshire state law is deemed a conflict under this section.**

YES 2312
NO 241

PURPOSE: The purpose of this Amendment is to add a provision making any conflict of interest under State law a conflict of interest under the Charter.

PROPOSED CHARTER AMENDMENT #6
§ C7-4 Private use of Town property and personnel.
PROPOSED TEXT (changes bolded)

No elected or appointed officer or employee shall devote any Town property or labor to private use **except through an affirmative vote of five councilors, after a public hearing.**

YES 2190
NO 376

PURPOSE: This Amendment establishes a procedure for use of town property and/or labor and further requires the affirmative vote of five councilors.



ARTICLE 3: PROPOSED CHARTER AMENDMENTS CONTINUED

PROPOSED CHARTER AMENDMENT #7
§ C8-6 Recall of officeholders.
PROPOSED TEXT (changes bolded)

Any individual elected official who has completed at least six months of his term of office or has more than six months of his term remaining may be recalled therefrom by the voters as follows:

- A. Two hundred fifty or more voters may file a request for a recall petition with the Town Clerk. This request shall include the name of the officer and the grounds for which the recall is sought, together with the signature and a legible name and address of each voter as verified by the supervisors of the checklist.
B. The Town Clerk shall certify the names of the voters and promptly issue blank petitions for recall. Each petition shall be addressed to the Council, be dated, include the grounds for recall as stated in the request, the name of the voter to whom it is issued, the signature of the Town Clerk, and the Town Seal. The recall petitions bearing the signatures and legible names and addresses of at least 750 voters shall be returned to the Town Clerk within 20 days. The Town Clerk shall promptly certify the number of voters who signed the petitions.

2259
YES [checked]
NO []
202

PURPOSE: This Amendment correctly states the process currently in effect for the recall of officeholders.

PROPOSED CHARTER AMENDMENT #8
§ C11-1 Administrative committees.
PROPOSED TEXT (changes bolded)

- C. Recreation Commission.
(1) Membership. There shall be a Recreation Commission consisting of five members. The five appointed by the Town Council shall have terms of three years, such terms to be staggered.
(2) Responsibilities and Town Council representative. The Recreation Commission shall make recommendations to the Town Council as to the acquisition, holding, and disposition of real and personal property pursuant to appropriations authorized by the Budgetary Town Meeting and may enter into any contract only with Council approval. It shall recommend to the Town Council all rules and regulations regarding the operation of recreation facilities. It shall recommend employment of full- or part-time employees to the Town Manager. The Town Council shall appoint one of its members as a representative to the Recreation Commission annually at its first meeting. A Town Councilor alternate shall also be appointed.
(3) Terms of alternates. Two alternate members shall be appointed, each serving three-year terms, staggered.

2233
YES [checked]
NO []
233

PURPOSE: This Amendment reflects the current membership of the Recreation Commission.

PROPOSED CHARTER AMENDMENT #9
§ C11-1 Administrative committees.
PROPOSED TEXT (changes bolded)

- D. Historic District Commission.
(1) Membership. There shall be an Historic District Commission consisting of four members, appointed by the Town Council. These members shall have terms of three years, such terms to be staggered in a manner determined by the Council.
(2) Town Council Representative. The Town Council shall appoint one of its members as a representative to the Historic District Commission annually at its first meeting. A Town Councilor alternate shall also be appointed.
(3) Vacancies in office. The Council shall fill any vacancy for the period of the unexpired term.
(4) Powers. The Historic District Commission shall have all the powers granted to historic district commissions by state law. Editor's Note: See RSA 674:45 et seq.
(5) Terms of alternates. Three alternate members shall be appointed, each serving three-year terms, staggered.

2222
YES [checked]
NO []
247

PURPOSE: This Amendment reflects the current membership of the Historic District Commission.



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BALLOT 3 OF 3

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ARTICLE 3: PROPOSED CHARTER AMENDMENTS CONTINUED

PROPOSED CHARTER AMENDMENT #10

The Town Council proposes to strike the charter provisions listed below, as they solely applied to town government in the year after the original adoption of the charter, and are therefore no longer applicable or timely.

- § C12-1 Continuation of government.
- § C12-2 Continuation and compensation of personnel.
- § C12-3 Transfer of records and property.
- § C12-4 Effect on obligations, taxes and other legal acts.
- § C12-5 Effective date and interim budget.
- § C12-6 Abolition of certain boards.
- § C12-7 Council, Town Clerk-Tax Collector, and Moderator.
- § C12-8 Expiration of terms of office of continued boards.
- § C12-9 First election.

2186
YES
NO
297

ARTICLE 4-SUBMITTED BY INITIATIVE PETITION

To see if the Town will vote to approve the following resolution to be forwarded to our State Representatives, our State Senator, the Speaker of the NH House, the NH Senate President, the NH District One U.S. Congressman, and the two US Senators from New Hampshire.

Resolved, that the people of Bedford, NH stand with communities across the country to defend democracy from the effects of unregulated spending to influence elections by corporate, labor and special interest groups.

1520
YES
NO
1019

Resolved, that the United States Constitution should be amended to establish that:

1. Only human beings, not corporations, labor unions or special interest organizations are endowed with first amendment rights in the area of political speech, and
2. The federal and state governments may regulate political contributions and spending made to influence elections.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the people of Bedford, NH, hereby instruct our state and federal representatives to enact resolutions and legislation to advance this effort.

2,756 Ballots Cast-17%

YOU HAVE NOW COMPLETED VOTING