

WARRANT

To: Leonette Hutchins, Resident of the Town of Whitefield, County of Lincoln, State of Maine.

GREETINGS:

In the name of the State of Maine, you are hereby required to notify the voters of Whitefield, Maine, qualified to vote on Town affairs, to meet at the Whitefield Central Fire Station in said Town on the Fifteenth day of March, 2019, at 3:45 PM, then and there to act upon Article 1 and by secret ballot on Article 2, the polling hours therefor to be from 4:00 PM in the afternoon until 8:00 PM in the evening:

Pursuant to Title 21-A, Section 759(7), absentee ballots will be processed at the polls at the following time of 6:00 PM.

And to notify and warn said voters to meet at the Whitefield Elementary School in said Town on the Sixteenth day of March, 2019 at 10:00 AM then and there to act on Articles 3 through 45 as set out below, to wit:

Article 1. To elect a moderator by written ballot to preside at said meeting.

Article 2. To elect by secret ballot municipal officers namely, two Select Board Member/Assessor/Overseer of the Poor for three-year terms; three RSU 12 School Board Members, one for a three-year term, one for a two-year term and for a one-year term; and three openings on the Planning Board for two-year terms.

Article 3. To see if the Town will fix dates when taxes shall be due and payable, and to see if the Town will fix an annual interest rate to be charged on unpaid taxes after said dates, and to allow the Tax Collector and Treasurer to accept the prepayment of taxes not yet committed pursuant to 36 M.R.S.A §506.

18/19 budget year interest rate 4%.

SELECT BOARD RECOMMENDS: Taxes due December 2, 2019 and April 30, 2020 and a 4% interest rate for unpaid taxes.

Article 4. To see if the Town will vote to appropriate from surplus funds to pay for tax abatements and any interest due thereon.

Article 5. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Town Tax Collector to enter into a standard agreement with taxpayers establishing a "tax club" payment plan for property taxes, whereby:

- the taxpayer agrees to pay specified monthly payments to the Town based on his or her estimated and actual tax obligation for the current year property taxes;
- the Town agrees not to charge interest on timely payments made pursuant to the tax club agreement;
- the Town authorizes the Town Tax Collector to accept tax club payments for current taxes which may be due prior to the commitment of those taxes.
- the agreement is automatically terminated if a scheduled payment is late, and the taxpayer then becomes subject to the same due dates and interest dates and rates as other taxpayers who are not participating in a tax club.
- only taxpayers who do not have any outstanding tax obligations for prior tax years are eligible to participate in the tax club program.
- taxpayers wishing to participate in a tax club for a particular property tax year shall enter into an agreement with the town by a publicly-advertised deadline determined by the Town Tax Collector.

Article 6. To see if the town will authorize the Treasurer to waive the foreclosure of a tax lien mortgage pursuant to 36 M.R.S.A §944 upon finding by the Select Board that ownership of the property subject to the lien would be contrary to the Town's best interest.

Article 7. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to enter into multi-year contracts to negotiate optimal value for the procurement of certain necessary services to the Town.

Article 8. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board on behalf of the Town to sell and dispose of any real estate acquired by the Town for nonpayment of taxes thereon, for such terms as they deem advisable and execute quitclaim deeds for the same; with the exception that the Municipal Officers shall use the special sale process required by the new elderly tax law 36 M.R.S. § 943-C for a qualifying homestead property if they choose to sell it to anyone other than the former owner(s).

Article 9. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to accept gifts of money or personal property to the Town and to appropriate and expend such gifts for such public purposes as the Select Board deem to be in the best interest of the Town.

Article 10. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to apply for and accept state and federal grants and grants from nonprofit organizations on behalf of the Town for municipal purposes including, when necessary, the authority to sign the grant contract and accept the conditions that accompany grant funds, and to appropriate and expend grant funds for the authorized purposes.

Article 11. To see if the Town will authorize the Select Board to dispose of town owned property valued up to \$1,000. Property valued over \$1,000 will be sold through auction or sealed-bid process.

Article 12. To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate to provide compensation to the Select Board during the ensuing fiscal year.

18/19 Budget \$18,500

SELECT BOARD RECOMMENDS: \$18,500 (5-0)

BUDGET COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS SAME: \$18,500 (6-0)

Article 13. To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the purpose of providing compensation and employee benefits to Town employees during the ensuing fiscal year.

18/19 Budget \$157,010

SELECT BOARD RECOMMENDS: \$173,564 (5-0)

BUDGET COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS SAME: \$173,564 (6-0)

Note: a) This includes salaries, insurances, Social Security for all departments (including part time employees), and retirement, travel, and training. b) Estimated amounts include salaries for the Administrative Assistant, Tax Collector, Office Assistants, and benefits for full-time town employees scheduled for 32 or more hours per week. C) Training for the 2020 budget is for all Town departments, boards and committees.

Article 14. To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for general expenses associated with the operation of Town government during the ensuing fiscal year.

18/19 Budget \$100,439

SELECT BOARD RECOMMENDS: \$112,570 (5-0)

BUDGET COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS SAME: \$112,570 (6-0)

Notes: Includes audit fees, assessing fees, MMA dues, computer software, maintenance, utilities, supplies, equipment, liability insurance, workers compensation insurance, contracted services, etc. Legal services was a separate warrant article item last fiscal year.

Article 15. To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for Elections expenses during the ensuing fiscal year.

18/19 Budget \$1,650

SELECT BOARD RECOMMENDS: \$4,569 (5-0)

BUDGET COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS SAME: \$4,569 (6-0)

Article 16. To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for Planning Board expenses and Code Enforcement Officer expenses during the ensuing fiscal year.

18/19 Budget \$10,400

SELECT BOARD RECOMMENDS: \$11,400 (5-0)

BUDGET COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS SAME: \$11,400 (6-0)

Article 17. To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for Townhouse (Historical Society) building expenses during the ensuing fiscal year.

18/19 Budget \$300

SELECT BOARD RECOMMENDS: \$100 (5-0)

BUDGET COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS SAME: \$100 (6-0)

Article 18. To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for Facilities Maintenance during the ensuing fiscal year.

18/19 Budget \$14,500

SELECT BOARD RECOMMENDS: \$23,860 (4-1)

BUDGET COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS SAME: \$23,860 (6-0)

Note: Maintenance of town facilities is now budgeted in one department.

The town is reimbursed \$3,400 from the Will Turner Cemetery Trust for the mowing of Coopers Mills Cemetery.

Article 19. To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for Public Water Supply maintenance during the ensuing fiscal year.

18/19 Budget \$0

SELECT BOARD RECOMMENDS: \$1,000 (4-1)

BUDGET COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS SAME: \$1,000 (6-0)

Note: This amount is for the monthly water testing only.

Article 20. To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the operation of the Whitefield Fire Department during the ensuing fiscal year.
18/19 Budget \$85,347

SELECT BOARD RECOMMENDS: \$91,494 (5-0)
BUDGET COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS SAME: \$91,494 (6-0)

Article 21. To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the Animal Control Contract during the ensuing fiscal year during the ensuing fiscal year.
18/19 Budget \$5,000

SELECT BOARD RECOMMENDS: \$5,000 (4-1)
BUDGET COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS SAME: \$5,000 (6-0)

Article 22. To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for repairs and maintenance of Town roads during the ensuing fiscal year.
18/19 Budget \$397,375

SELECT BOARD RECOMMENDS: \$432,381 (4-1)
BUDGET COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS SAME: \$432,381 (6-0)

Article 23. To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for winter maintenance of Town roads during the ensuing fiscal year.
18/19 Budget \$269,182

SELECT BOARD RECOMMENDS: \$279,517 (5-0)
BUDGET COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS SAME: \$279,517 (6-0)

Article 24. To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the General Assistance Program during the ensuing fiscal year.
18/19 Budget \$3,250

SELECT BOARD RECOMMENDS: \$3,000 (5-0)
BUDGET COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS SAME: \$3,000 (6-0)

Article 25. To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate in support of the following outside services: Lincoln County Humane Society, \$2,645; Hatch Hill, \$23,000 during the ensuing fiscal year.
18/19 Budget \$25,300

SELECT BOARD RECOMMENDS: \$25,645 (5-0)
BUDGET COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS SAME: \$25,645 (6-0)

Article 26. To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for salaries, utilities and maintenance for the Recycling Center during the ensuing fiscal year.

18/19 Budget \$2,661

SELECT BOARD RECOMMENDS: \$2,901 (5-0)

BUDGET COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS SAME: \$2,901 (6-0)

Article 27. To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the Fire Department capital outlay during the ensuing fiscal year.

18/19 Budget \$9,000.00

SELECT BOARD RECOMMENDS: \$9,000 (5-0)

BUDGET COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS SAME: \$9,000 (6-0)

Article 28. To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate to be expended for repairs of the Leonard's Bridge Culvert on South Hunts Meadow Road.

18/19 Budget \$50,000

SELECT BOARD RECOMMENDS: \$50,000 (4-1)

BUDGET COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS SAME: \$50,000 (6-0)

Article 29. To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate funds for the purchase of the Solar Panels to be put in a reserve fund for future purchase of the solar installation.

18/19 Budget \$0

SELECT BOARD RECOMMENDS: \$8,910 (3-2)

BUDGET COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS SAME: \$8,910 (6-0)

Article 30. To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the Senott Road Culvert Replacement and to allow the fund to not lapse until the projects are completed.

18/19 Budget \$0

SELECT BOARD RECOMMENDS: \$50,000 (4-1)

BUDGET COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS SAME: \$50,000 (6-0)

Article 31. To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate funds for the replacement of the roof for the Coopers Mills Volunteer Fire Department building

18/19 Budget \$0

SELECT BOARD RECOMMENDS: \$12,600 (4-1)

BUDGET COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS SAME: \$12,600 (6-0)

Article 32. To see if the Town will vote to provide a Public Water Supply for citizens which is located at the Central Fire Station.

Article 33. To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the Public Water Supply Treatment System.

18/19 Budget \$0

SELECT BOARD RECOMMENDS: \$0 (5-0)

BUDGET COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS SAME: \$0 (6-0)

Article 34. To see if the Town will vote to lapse all balances into undesignated Fund Balance except those which must be carried forward by statute and the balances of the following accounts: Town Roads, Town House, Emergency Management Operations, Fire Department Capital, Leonard's Bridge Culvert, and the Facilities Maintenance that accounts will not lapse and to allow the Select Board to expend from them in future years for their designated purposes during the ensuing fiscal year.

Article 35. To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for a Tax Anticipation Note during the ensuing fiscal year.

18/19 Budget \$600

SELECT BOARD RECOMMENDS: \$600 (5-0)

BUDGET COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS SAME: \$600 (6-0)

Article 36. To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for soldiers' graves and Whitefield Cemetery during the ensuing fiscal year.

18/19 Budget \$3,300

SELECT BOARD RECOMMENDS: \$3,300 (5-0)

BUDGET COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS SAME: \$3,300 (6-0)

Article 37. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate to support the debt service incurred for the Fire Department and fire truck during the ensuing fiscal year.

18/19 Budget \$53,201

Fire Truck Principal	\$16,451
Fire Truck Interest	\$ 5,155
Fire Station Principal	\$18,272
Fire Station Interest	<u>\$ 6,142</u>
	\$46,020

SELECT BOARD RECOMMENDS: \$46,020 (5-0)

BUDGET COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS SAME: \$46,020 (6-0)

Article 38. To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for donations to the following organizations:

	18-19 Budget	19-20 Select Board	19-20 Budget Committee
American Red Cross	\$250	\$250 (3-2)	\$250 (3-2-1)
Midcoast Maine CAP	\$1,000	\$1,000 (3-2)	\$1000 (6-0)
Maine General Hospice	\$1,137	\$1,137 (3-2)	\$1,137 (6-0)
Kennebec Behavioral Health	\$1,000	\$1,000 (3-2)	\$1,000 (6-0)
New Hope for Women	\$580	\$610 (3-2)	\$610 (6-0)
Spectrum Generations	\$500	\$730 (3-2)	\$730 (6-0)
Young at Heart	\$150	\$150 (3-2)	\$150 (6-0)
Childrens Ctr.Early Intervention	\$0	\$1,142 (3-2)	\$1,142 (3-2-1)
Healthy Kids	\$1,000	\$1,000 (3-2)	\$1,000 (6-0)
Waldo County CAP	\$0	\$0 (3-2)	\$245 (5-1)
Health Equity Alliance	\$0	\$0 (5-0)	\$0 (6-0)
Lifeflight	\$0	\$0 (5-0)	\$575 (5-1)
TOTAL	\$5,617	\$7,019	\$7,839

SELECT BOARD votes are posted next to the recommended amounts.

BUDGET COMMITTEE votes are posted next to the recommended amounts

Please note: Waldo CAP requested \$245; Health Equity Alliance requested \$500 and Lifeflight requested \$575.

Article 39. To see if the Town will vote to appropriate all funds received by the Town from the State of Maine for snowmobile registrations to the Snowmobile Club for the purpose of maintaining their snowmobile trails and to authorize the municipal officers to enter into an agreement with the Club, under such terms and conditions as the municipal officers may deem advisable, for that purpose. These funds are to be used for the maintenance of snowmobile trails within the Town.

Article 40. To see if the Town will vote to approve a Local Food Sovereignty Ordinance to authorize local control of food production and exchange.

LOCAL FOOD SOVEREIGNTY ORDINANCE

RECITALS

WHEREAS, the municipal officers and voters of the Town of Whitefield (the "Town") support the rights of the residents of the Town to produce, process, sell, purchase, and consume local foods in order to promote self-reliance, the preservation of family farms, and local food traditions; and

WHEREAS, the Town recognizes that family farms, sustainable agricultural practices, and food processing by individuals, families, and non-corporate entities offer stability to a rural way of life by enhancing the economic, environmental, and social wealth of the community; and

WHEREAS, the Town desires to support food systems that respect human dignity and health; nourish individuals and the community; and sustain producers, processors, and the environment; and

WHEREAS, the Town desires to enact a local food sovereignty ordinance pursuant to the Town's home rule authority granted it by the Constitution of the State of Maine that facilitates the ability of individuals to acquire, produce, process, prepare, preserve, and consume the food of their own choosing for their own nourishment and sustenance; to barter, trade, and purchase food; and to save and exchange seed from the sources of their own choosing for their own physical health and well-being.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the voters of the Town of Whitefield, Maine, as follows:

1. Title

This ordinance shall be known and may be cited as the "Local Food Sovereignty Ordinance," and is referred to herein as "this Ordinance."

2. Purpose

Pursuant to 7 M.R.S. § 283, it is the policy of this State to encourage food self-sufficiency for its citizens. The purpose of this Ordinance is to:

- A. Through local control, preserve the ability of individuals and communities to save and exchange seed and to produce, process, sell, purchase, and consume locally produced foods;
- B. Ensure the preservation of family farms and traditional foodways through small-scale farming, food production, and community social events;
- C. Improve the health and well-being of residents of the Town of Whitefield by reducing hunger and increasing food security through unimpeded access to wholesome, nutritious foods by encouraging ecological farming;

- D. Promote self-reliance and personal responsibility by facilitating the ability of individuals, families and other entities to prepare, process, advertise, and sell foods directly to customers intended solely for consumption by the customers or their families;
- E. Enhance rural economic development and the environmental and social wealth of rural communities; and
- F. Protect access to Local Food through Direct Producer-to-Consumer Transactions, as defined in Section 4, below.

3. Authority

This Ordinance is adopted and enacted pursuant to Article VIII, Part Second of the Constitution of the State of Maine, 30-A M.R.S. § 3001, and 7 M.R.S. § 281-286.

4. Definitions

As used in this Ordinance, the following terms shall have the meanings stated below:

- A. **DIRECT PRODUCER-TO-CONSUMER TRANSACTION:** A face-to-face transaction involving food or food products at the site of production of those food or food products.
- B. **LOCAL FOOD:** Any food or food product that is grown, produced, processed, or prepared by individuals who exchange that food as part of a Direct Producer-to-Consumer Transaction.
- C. **PROCESSOR:** An individual who processes or prepares products of the earth, soil, or animals for food or drink.
- D. **PRODUCER:** A farmer or gardener who grows or raises any plant or animal for food or drink, whether for commercial sale or not.

5. Exemption from Licensure and Inspection

In accordance with 7 M.R.S. § 284, the Producers and Processors of Local Food intended for Direct Producer-to-Consumer Transactions in the Town Whitefield shall be exempt from state licensure and inspection, and the State of Maine shall not enforce those state food laws, rules, or regulations with respect to Direct Producer-to-Consumer Transactions.

6. Meat and Poultry

This Ordinance is not applicable to any meat or poultry products that are required to be produced or processed in compliance with the Maine Meat and Poultry Products Inspection Program, Title 22, Chapter 562-A, of the Maine Revised Statutes and the rules adopted thereunder.

7. Liability Protection; No Waiver of Municipal Immunity

Producers and Processors of Local Food may enter into private agreements with consumers to waive any liability for the consumption of Local Food. Nothing in this Ordinance shall be construed as a waiver of the Town of Whitefield's immunity from liability pursuant to the Maine Tort Claims Act or any other immunities or defenses available to the Town.

8. Effective Date

This Ordinance shall be effective immediately upon its enactment.

9. Severability Clause

To the extent any provision of this Ordinance is deemed invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, such provision will be removed and the balance of the Ordinance shall remain valid.

Article 41. Shall the Town vote to adopt an ordinance entitled "Re-Establishment of Whitefield Planning Board" pursuant to 30-A M.R.S. Section 3001? The Planning Board which has been acting as Planning Board for the Town of Whitefield shall hereby be re-established as the legal planning board for the purposes of this ordinance. All actions taken by the Planning Board prior to the adoptions of the ordinance are hereby declared to be the acts of the legally constituted Planning Board for the Town of Whitefield.

RE-ESTABLISHMENT OF WHITEFIELD PLANNING BOARD

Establishment

Pursuant to M.R.S. Constitution, Article VIII-A and 30A M.R.S. Section 3001, the Town of Whitefield hereby re-establishes the Whitefield Planning Board.

1. Appointment

Appointments to the board shall be made by municipal election.

- A. The board shall consist of 5 members.
- B. The term of each member shall be 3 years, except the initial appointments which shall be as follows:
 - 1) The two members elected in 2018 shall continue until their term expires in 2020, at which time the term for those two positions shall increase to 3 years.

- 2) Current members elected in March of 2019 shall serve two years until March 2021. At that time two positions will convert to three year terms (ending in 2024) and one will go to one year (2022).
- 3) In 2022 the one term expiring will be replaced to a three year term.
- C. When there is a permanent vacancy, the municipal officers shall within 60 days of its occurrence appoint a person to serve for the unexpired term.
- D. Persons holding another municipal office cannot serve on the Planning Board.

2. Organization and Rules

- A. The board shall elect a chairman and a secretary from among its members and create and fill such other offices as it may determine. The term of all offices shall be 1 year with eligibility for re-election.
- B. Any question of whether a member shall be disqualified from voting on a particular matter shall be decided by a majority vote of the members except the member who is being challenged.
- C. The chairman shall call at least one regular meeting of the board every month.
- D. No meeting of the board shall be held without a quorum consisting of 3 members.
- E. The Board shall adopt rules for transaction of business and the secretary shall keep a record of its resolutions, transactions, correspondence, findings and determinations. All records shall be deemed public and may be inspected at reasonable times as designated by the Select Board.

3. Duties and Powers

- A. The Board shall prepare a Comprehensive Plan as defined by 30A M.R.S. Section 4326. A comprehensive plan that is adopted by the board shall control until superseded by provisions adopted by the Whitefield legislative body.
- B. The Board shall perform such duties and exercise such powers as are provided by Whitefield ordinance and the laws of the State of Maine.
- C. The Board may obtain goods and services necessary to its proper function within the limits of appropriations made for the purpose.

Article 42. To authorize the Select Board to accept and expend any other revenue from State, Federal, local and private sources for the support of the Town during the ensuing fiscal year.

Article 43. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to move funds in the municipal budget from categories with balances to those with deficits during the ensuing fiscal year.

Article 44. To be decided by written ballot:

To see if the Town will vote to increase the property tax levy limit established for the Town of Whitefield by State Law in the event that the municipal budget approved under the preceding articles will result in a tax commitment that is greater than the property tax levy limit.

Article 45. To see if the Town will vote to appropriate, and to authorize the Select Board to expend, up to from the following General Fund revenue sources to be used toward the July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020 budget appropriation, thereby decreasing the amount to be raised from property taxes.

18/19 Budget \$756,600


Auto Excise	\$400,000
BMV Agent	\$7,500
Revenue Sharing	\$100,000
Homestead Exemption	\$50,000
Business Equipment Tax Exemption	\$5,000
Veterans' Exemption	\$2,000
Tree Growth	\$7,000
Interest on Taxes	\$2,800
Lien Cost	\$5,000
Other non-property	\$26,119
Unassigned Surplus	\$100,000
Local Roads Assistance Program	<u>\$47,000</u>
Total	\$752,419

SELECT BOARD RECOMMENDS: \$752,419 (4-0) one Board member absent

The Registrar will be in session during Town Meeting to register anyone eligible to vote in Town matters.

Failure not to make return on this warrant with your doings thereon or at said meeting of the Select Board.

Given under our hands and seal in the said Town of Whitefield this 19th day of February 2019.
A true copy of the warrant.



Anthony F. Marple



Lester E. Sheaffer, Jr.


Franklin A. Ober



William C. McKeen



Charlene Donahue

Attested: 
Darlene M. Beaulieu
Whitefield Town Clerk