

**WARRANT FOR THE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE**

GRAFTON, SS

TOWN OF LYME

To the inhabitants of the Town of Lyme, New Hampshire, who are qualified to vote in Town affairs:
You are hereby notified that the official polls of the Town of Lyme, New Hampshire, will be held at the Lyme Community Room/Gymnasium in the Lyme School on Tuesday, March, 10th 2026. Polls will open for voting by ballot on Articles 1, 2 and 3 at **7:00 AM and will close at 7:00 PM**, unless the Town votes to keep the polls open to a later hour.

The business portion of the Town meeting will be held on **Saturday March 14th, 2026 starting at 9:00AM**. It will be held at the Lyme Community Room/Gymnasium in the Lyme School. Discussion and voting on Articles 4 through 22.

ELECTION OF OFFICIALS

ARTICLE 1. To vote by non-partisan ballot for the following Town Officials.

Budget Committee- 2 Committee members for 3 years

Cemetery Trustee- 1 Trustee for 3 years

Library Trustee- 3 Trustees for 3 years

Moderator – 1 Moderator for 2 years

Overseer of Public Welfare- 1 Overseer for 1 year

Planning Board- 1 Member for 3 years

Select Board- 1 Member for 3 years

Supervisor of Checklist – 1 for 6 years

Trustee of Trust Funds-1 Trustee for 3 years

PETITION ZONING WARRANT ARTICLE

ARTICLE 2. Are you in favor of amending the Lyme Zoning Ordinance by amending subsection 4.46 G and adding a new subsection 4.46 H as follows:

G. [AMENDED] Any building that is outside the Lyme Center, Lyme Common, or Commercial Zoning Districts, may be converted into no more than 6 units.

H. [NEW] For any building that is within the Lyme Center, Lyme Common, or Commercial Zoning Districts, if the building is more than 5 years old, it may be converted into no more than 6 commercial units and any number of residential units that fit into its existing structure, plus up to 15% to accommodate changes to the structure to support the conversion; and if the building is less than 5 years old it may be converted into no more than 6 units.

(The Planning Board voted 3 to 1 to disapprove of this amendment)

AMENDING ZONING ORDINANCE WITH IN THE SHORELAND CONSERVATION DISTRICT

ARTICLE 3. Are you in favor of amending the Lyme Zoning Ordinance to allow buried propane tanks within the Shoreland Conservation District by adding a new subsection 4.63 B 7 and amending sub section 4.63 C 2 as follows:

7. Underground propane tanks with the following additional conditions:
 - a) Where conservation districts overlap, the tank is not located in the Wetlands or Flood Prone Conservation Districts.

- b) Designed and properly anchored to prevent flotation. The design and installation shall be certified by an engineer or other qualified professional. The elevation of the Seasonal High-Water Table (SHWT), shall be included. In lieu of determining the SHWT, the tank installation may be designed assuming ground surface elevation to be the SHWT.
 - c) Submission of the elevation of the seasonal highwater table.
 - d) An installation plan shall be approved by the Lyme Fire Department.
- C. Additional Provisions.
- 1. No use which utilizes, stores, processes or disposes of toxic substances which may pose a threat to surface or ground water quality, including underground fuel storage tanks other than propane are permitted.

SEMIANNUAL PROPERTY TAX COLLECTION

ARTICLE 4. To see if the town will vote to adopt the provisions of RSA 76:15-a whereby taxes are collected semi-annually as follows: a partial payment of the taxes assessed on April 1 in any tax year shall be computed by taking the prior year's assessed valuation times 1/2 of the previous year's tax rate; provided, however, that whenever it shall appear to the Select Board or assessors that certain individual properties have physically changed in valuation, they may use the current year's appraisal times 1/2 the previous year's tax rate to compute the partial payment. If adopted, this collection process will begin in tax year 2027. (Recommended by the Select Board by a vote of 3-0)

OVERSEER OF PUBLIC WELFARE TO BE APPOINTED

ARTICLE 5. Are you in favor of discontinuing the elected office of Overseer of Public Welfare and instead having the Overseer of Public Welfare who is appointed by the Select Board for 1 year term? If approved and a person is elected to that office this year, they will continue to serve until March 14, 2027. (Majority vote required.) (Recommended by the Select Board by a vote of 3-0)

VETERANS TAX CREDIT

ARTICLE 6. To see if the town will vote to increase the tax credit for veterans with service-connected total disability from \$2,000 to \$2,500 in light of HB 99 which was adopted in 2025 and which prohibits these veterans from also claiming other veterans tax credits and exemptions. (Majority vote required.) (Recommended by the Select Board by a vote of 3-0)

AUTHORIZATION TO PUT A CONSERVATION EASEMENT ON THE TOWN FOREST

ARTICLE 7. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Conservation Commission to convey a conservation easement on Map 407 Lot 30 of the Town of Lyme property maps, which is part of the Town Forest, to a qualifying organization, on such terms and conditions as the Conservation Commission may deem advisable. (Majority vote required.) (Recommended by the Conservation Commission by a vote of 5-0.) (Recommended by the Select Board by a vote of 2-1)

CONFLICT OF INTEREST ORDINANCE

ARTICLE 8. To see if the town will vote to adopt an ordinance defining and regulating conflicts of interest for local officers, committee members and employees pursuant to RSA 31:39-a. (Majority vote required.) (Recommended by the Select Board by a vote of 3-0)

TOWN OPERATING BUDGET

ARTICLE 9. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of three million one hundred fifty five thousand five hundred seventy three dollars **(\$3,155,573)** which represents the operating budget as recommended by the Budget Committee. Said sum does not include appropriations contained in any other warrant articles. (Majority vote required.) (Recommended by the Select Board by a vote of 3-0) (Recommended by the Budget Committee by a vote of .) (To be raised by taxation.)

REMOVE MATERIAL FROM PROPERTY

ARTICLE 10. To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of one hundred thousand dollars **(\$100,000)** to continue to remove the materials stored on the property located at 116 Dorchester Road that the Grafton County Superior Court, by its order dated November 25th, 2015, has authorized the Town to remove, and to cover any legal or other related costs associated with such action. These appropriations are **not** included in the total town operating budget warrant article as approved by the Budget Committee. (Recommended by the Select Board by a vote of 3-0.) (Recommended by the Budget Committee by a vote of) (Majority vote required.) (To be raised by taxation.)

EXTERIOR PAINTING OF THE LYME CENTER ACADEMY BUILDING

ARTICLE 11. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of thirty five thousand dollars **(\$35,000)** for the purpose of painting the exterior of the Lyme Center Academy Building. This appropriation is **not** included in the total town operating budget warrant article as approved by the Budget Committee. (Majority vote required.) (Recommended by the Select Board by a vote of 3-0) (Recommended by the Budget Committee by a vote of.) (To be raised by taxation.)

TO CAPITAL RESERVE FUNDS AND TRUST FUNDS

ARTICLE 12. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate six hundred seventy-five thousand dollars **(\$675,000)** to be added to the following Capital Reserve and Expendable Trust Funds previously established for the purposes for which they were created.

Capital Reserve Funds:

Bridge Capital Reserve Fund	\$50,000
Vehicle Capital Reserve Fund	\$310,000
Heavy Equipment Capital Reserve Fund	\$100,000
Class V Roads Rehab Capital Reserve Fund	\$50,000
Public Works Facility Capital Reserve Fund	\$80,000
Computer System Upgrade Capital Reserve Fund	\$5,000
Town Building Major Maintenance and repair CRF	\$20,000
Fire Fighting Safety Equipment Capital Reserve Fund	\$20,000
Capital Reserve Funds Subtotal:	\$635,000

Expendable Trust Funds:

Emergency Major Equipment rebuilding Trust Fund	\$20,000
Town Poor Expendable Trust Fund	\$5,000
Annual Leave Trust Fund	<u>\$15,000</u>
Expendable Trust Funds total:	\$40,000

Capital Reserve Funds and Expendable Trust Funds	Total:	\$675,000
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These appropriations are **not** included in the total town operating budget warrant article as approved by the Budget Committee. (Majority vote required.) (Recommended by the Select Board by a vote of 3-0) (Recommended by the Budget Committee by a vote of .) (To be raised by taxation.)

TO CAPITAL RESERVE FUNDS

ARTICLE 13. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate eight hundred fifty dollars (**\$850**) to be added to the Recreation Facility Capital Reserve Fund previously established and to fund this appropriation by withdrawing this amount from the unexpended fund balance. This amount represents the revenue generated from rental of the boat racks in 2025. Said sum does **not** include appropriations contained in any other warrant articles. (Majority vote required.) (Recommended by the Select Board by a vote of 3-0.) (Recommended by the Budget Committee by a vote of .) (No amount to be raised by taxation.)

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE BLOCK GRANT APPROPRIATION

ARTICLE 14. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of ninety-nine thousand dollars (**\$99,000**) for the purpose of maintenance, construction and reconstruction of Class IV & V highways with \$99,000 anticipated to come from the State of New Hampshire Block Grant. Said sum does **not** include appropriations contained in any other warrant articles. (Majority vote required.) (Recommended by the Select Board by a vote of 3-0.) (Recommended by the Budget Committee by a vote of .) (No amount to be raised by taxation.)

WITHDRAWAL FROM THE PUBLIC WORKS FACILITY CAPITAL RESERVE FUND

ARTICLE 15. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of eighty one thousand seven hundred seventeen dollars (**\$81,717**) for the annual payment on the Fire Station, the purchase of which was authorized in 2020; and further to authorize the withdrawal of this amount from the Public Works Facility Capital Reserve Fund.

This appropriation is **not** included in the total town operating budget warrant article as approved by the Budget Committee. (Majority vote required.) (Recommended by the Select Board by a vote of 3-0.) (Recommended by the Budget Committee by a vote of .) (No amount to be raised by taxation.)

WITHDRAWAL FROM VEHICLE CAPITAL RESERVE FUND-Maintenance/Highway truck

ARTICLE 16. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of ninety thousand dollars (**\$90,000.00**) for the purchase of a Maintenance/Highway department truck with plow and sander; and further to authorize the withdrawal of this amount from the Vehicle Capital Reserve Fund for the purposes for which it was created.

This appropriation is **not** included in the total town operating budget warrant article as approved by the Budget Committee. (Majority vote required.) (Recommended by the Select Board by a vote of 3-0) (Recommended by the Budget Committee by a vote of .) (No amount to be raised by taxation.)

WITHDRAWAL FROM CAPITAL RESERVE FUNDS

ARTICLE 17. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of ten thousand dollars (**\$10,000**) to fund the purchase of computer equipment by authorizing the withdrawal of such funds from the Computer System Upgrade Capital Reserve Fund for the purposes for which it was created. This appropriation is **not** included in the total town operating budget warrant article as approved by the Budget Committee. (Majority vote required.) (Recommended by the Select Board by a vote of 3-0) (Recommended by the Budget Committee by a vote of .) (No amount to be raised by taxation.)

WITHDRAWAL FROM VEHICLE CAPITAL RESERVE FUND-Fire/EMS truck

ARTICLE 18. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of ninety thousand dollars (**\$90,000**), for the purchase of a Fire/EMS truck and further to authorize the withdrawal of this amount from the Vehicle Capital Reserve Fund for the purposes for which it was created.

This appropriation is **not** included in the total town operating budget warrant article as approved by the Budget Committee. (Majority vote required.) (Recommended by the Select Board by a vote of 3-0) (Recommended by the Budget Committee by a vote of) (No amount to be raised by taxation.)

INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATION SPECIAL REVENUE FUND

ARTICLE 19. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of six thousand seven hundred forty seven dollars (**\$6,747.00**) to sponsor an Independence Day celebration, including but not limited to a parade, picnic, music and family fun and to fund this appropriation by authorizing withdrawal of that sum from the Independence Day Celebration Special Revenue Fund established for this purpose at the 2003 Town Meeting. This appropriation is **not** included in the total town operating budget warrant article as approved by the Budget Committee. (Majority vote required.) (Recommended by the Select Board by a vote of 3-0) (Recommended by the Budget Committee by a vote of .) (No amount to be raised by taxation.)

MILFOIL TREATMENT FOR POST POND

ARTICLE 20. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of forty six thousand six hundred and twenty dollars (**\$46,620.00**) for milfoil treatment of Post Pond, with twenty three thousand three hundred and ten dollars (**\$23,310.00**) to be funded through a grant from the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services; fourteen thousand and eighteen dollars (**\$14,018.00**) to come from the Unassigned Fund Balance and nine thousand two hundred and ninety two dollars (**\$9,292.00**) to be funded by the withdrawal of this amount from the Conservation Fund. This will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7, VI and will not lapse until the milfoil problem is resolved or by December 31, 2027, whichever is sooner.

This appropriation is **not** included in the total town operating budget warrant article as approved by the Budget Committee. (Majority vote required.) (Recommended by the Select Board by a vote of 3-0) (Recommended by the Budget Committee by a vote of 5-0) (Recommended by the Budget Committee by a vote of .) (No amount to be raised by taxation.)

REPORTS OF AGENTS, AUDITORS & COMMITTEES

ARTICLE 21. To hear reports of Agents, Auditors, Committees or other officers heretofore chosen, and to pass any vote relating thereto. (Majority vote required)

OTHER BUISNESS

ARTICLE 22. To transact any other business that may be legally brought before this Town Meeting.

Given under our hands and seal of the Town of Lyme this _____ day of February 2026.

Town of Lyme

Select Board

Judith Brotman, Chair

Benjamin Kilham

David Kahn

Recording of Warrant:

This Warrant and return of Warrant has been duly recorded in the Office of the Town Clerk of Lyme, New Hampshire, this _____ day of February 2026.

Emily Shepard, Town Clerk