

Warrant Ordinance Articles for Ballot

Amendment 1: Ordinance Reorganization

Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment No. 1 as proposed by the Planning Board to amend the Westmoreland Zoning Ordinance as follows:

To reorganize the Zoning Ordinance by renumbering Articles I through VII as Articles 1 through 14, consolidating and regrouping related provisions into new articles, and adding article headings for improved clarity. This reorganization is strictly clerical in nature and does not modify, expand, or delete any existing regulations. A crosswalk between the prior and reorganized structure is available in a separate document.

This amendment does not change any rules in the zoning ordinance. It simply reorganizes the document so it is easier to read and use. The current ordinance has grown over time, making it harder to find related sections. The Planning Board has reorganized Articles I through VII into 14 shorter articles with clearer headings. A reference guide is available so residents can see exactly where each section moved.

Amendment 2: Use of Land Use Term

Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment No. 2 as proposed by the Planning Board to amend the Westmoreland Zoning Ordinance to replace all references to “Zoning Permit” with the term “Land Use Permit,” to match the type of permit issued by the Town and reduce confusion?

This amendment changes the term “Zoning Permit” with “Land Use Permit” throughout the ordinance. The Town, through the Land Use Administrator, issues Land Use Permits rather than Zoning Permits, and this terminology change aligns the ordinance with current practice. The purpose is to reduce confusion for applicants and staff. This amendment does not change the permitting process, the authority of the Land Use Administrator, or the meaning or application of any existing regulation.

Amendment 3: Conditional Uses

Are you in favor of Amendment No. 3 as proposed by the Planning Board pertaining to the removal of Article III Section 307 of the Westmoreland Zoning Ordinance as follows:

This repeal removes Section 307, which pertained to ‘Conditional Uses.’ Under RSA 674:21, II, municipalities may adopt provisions for conditional uses, the Town of Westmoreland has never

authorized or defined any such uses in its ordinance. As a result, Section 307 contained no applicable standards or procedures. Its removal eliminates an unused provision and does not change the meaning or application of any existing regulation.

Amendment 4: Terms – Setback

Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment No. 4 as proposed by the Planning Board to add to terms the definition of setback as the required space between the property lines and any structures?

The term setback is used numerous times in the ordinances but no definition is currently provided.

Amendment 5: Portable and Small Structures

Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment No. 5 as proposed by the Planning Board to amend Ordinance 421:1 to clarify front setback requirements and repeat the existing restriction that already exists in definitions so it is clear under the related ordinance?

While side and rear setbacks are the same in all zones, front setback varies. This makes clear that front setback must match the respective zone. The restriction that these structures cannot be used as dwellings already exists under the definition but this includes it under the specific ordinance for clarity.

Amendment 6: 407:2 Accessory Dwelling Units

Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment No. 6 as proposed by the Planning Board to amend Ordinance 407:2 to increase the maximum size to 950 square feet, reduce required parking to one additional space, remove appearance requirements, remove the requirement for a special exception, and reduce the required exits to one?

This will align our ordinance with the changes required by the NH legislature in 2025. It simplifies the process, increases maximum size, reduces required parking, and will strongly recommend two exits but state law does not allow this to be required.

Amendment 7: 428 Off Street Parking

Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment No. 7 as proposed by the Planning Board to amend Ordinance 428 to reduce the number of required parking spaces to one for every unit for one, two, and multi-family dwellings?

The state legislature passed a law restricting towns from requiring more than one space per dwelling unit.

Amendment 8: On Street Parking

Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment No. 8 as proposed by the Planning Board upon request of the Selectmen to add an ordinance that forbids parking on town roads without a permit by the Selectmen?

This addresses a concern of vehicle parking on town roads creating safety issues for traffic.

Amendment 9: 438.1 Noise

Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment No. 9 as proposed by the Planning Board to meet state law changes excluding agriculture from noise restrictions?

The state legislature passed a law adding this exclusion to any municipal noise ordinances.

Amendment 10: Snow and Debris on Roadways

Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment No.10 as proposed by the Planning Board upon request of the Selectmen to add two ordinances? One restricts the placing of snow or ice onto roads without prior permission by the Road Agent and any owner of affected property The second addresses the same concern with debris such as grass or brush.

This addresses a safety concern of snow, ice, or debris being left on roads or personal property by individuals or contractors but allows it under certain circumstances with the permission of the Road Agent and affected landowners.

Amendment 11: Special Public Events

Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment No. 11 as proposed by the Planning Board upon request of the Selectmen regarding special public events and permitting for these events?

This protects public health, safety, and welfare by establishing a permit process for events which are large, publicly advertised, and or revenue generating.