

Warrant Article Questionnaire Non Standard Town Agency Articles

Section III – Questions with Response Boxes – To Be Completed By Petition Sponsor

Article #25	Date Form Completed: 9/5/2017
Article Title: Accept Conveyance of Land for Cochituate Rail Trail	
Sponsor Name: Board of Selectmen	Email: jostroff@natickma.org

Question	Question
1	Provide the article motion exactly as it will appear in the Finance Committee Recommendation Book and presented to Town Meeting for action.
Response	“Move that the Town vote to acquire by gift, without consideration, for general municipal purposes, including without limitation improvements to North Main Street and recreational and non-motorized transportation purposes for the proposed Cochituate Rail Trail, a parcel of land located at 0 North Main Street, owned now or formerly by MCREF Natick Development LLC, and shown on Town of Natick Assessors Map 35, Lot 113C, provided that no money shall be appropriated under this article.”
2	At a summary level and very clearly, what is the proposed purpose and objective of this Warrant Article and the accompanying Motion?
Response	The land to be conveyed will ensure that the approved design for the CRT at the crossing of Lake Street at North Main can be constructed using land under the Town’s control, and that improvements to North Main Street similarly benefit. The land conveyance was memorialized in a Planning Board decision for the former Natick Paperboard site, which was focused on improvements to North Main Street.
3	Has this article or one of a very similar scope and substance been on a previous Warrant Article and what has been the actions taken by Finance Committee, other Boards or Committees and Town Meeting?
Response	No.
4	Why is it required for the Town of Natick and for the Town Agency sponsor(s)?
Response	To facilitate CRT construction as designed, and pending Route 27 final design and state/federal funded construction. Alternatively, an easement can be negotiated.
5	Does this article require funding, how much, from what source of funds and under whose authority will the appropriation be managed and spent?
Response	No.
6	Does this article act in any way in concert with, in support of, or to extend any prior action of Natick Town Meeting, Massachusetts General Laws or CMR’s or other such legislation or actions?

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	Does this article seek to amend, rescind or otherwise change any prior action of Natick Town Meeting?
Response	The article complements past TM votes, including design appropriations for the CRT and North Main Street, and the acquisition of adjacent land for the CRT. It also complements the 2006 TM vote to rezone the former Paperboard site.
7	How does the proposed motion (and implementation) fit with the relevant Town Bylaws, financial and capital plan, comprehensive Master Plan, and community values as well as relevant state laws and regulations?
Response	N/A
8	Who are the critical participants in executing the effort envisioned by the article motion?
Response	1) The CRT Advisory Committee, Town Staff, Town consultants and MassDOT to execute the design of the CRT; 2) Town staff, MassDOT, Town consultants and other parties for the Route 27 project.
9	What steps and communication has the sponsor attempted to assure that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interested parties were notified in a timely way and had a chance to participate in the process • Appropriate Town Boards & Committees were consulted • Required public hearings were held
Response	The article continues the public processes under which the Natick Modera project was permitted, and the CRT design has been developed, and through which the Route 27 project is being designed. Public meetings have been noticed by the Town or MassDOT.
10	Since submitting the article have you identified issues that weren't initially considered in the development of the proposal?
Response	No.
11	If this Warrant Article is not approved by Town Meeting what are the consequences to the Town and to the sponsor(s)? Please be specific on both financial and other consequences?
Response	We may pursue easements, which will require some additional time and may limit our flexibility in design. It is always preferable to have land for transportation improvements fully under the Town's control.