

Warrant Article Questionnaire  
Standard (Recurring) Town Agency Articles

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

Article # 1	Date Form Completed: 2/13/2018
Article Title: Authorize Board of Selectmen to Acquire, Obtain, Abandon or Relocate Easements	
Sponsor Name: Board of Selectmen	Email: chenard@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. Note: Failing to provide a complete motion will likely require a rescheduling of the hearing to a later date.
Response	Move that the Town vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen, during Fiscal Year 2019, to acquire on behalf of the Town any and all easements for any of the following purposes: roads, sidewalks, vehicular and/or pedestrian access or passage, drainage and utilities, provided however that such authorization pertains only to easements acquired at no cost to the Town; and, further, to authorize the Board of Selectmen, subsequent to a public hearing, during Fiscal Year 2019 to abandon or relocate easements acquired for any of the foregoing purposes.
2	At a summary level and very clearly, what is the proposed purpose and objective of this Warrant Article and the accompanying Motion?
Response	Under this article, we propose to renew the Board of Selectmen’s authorization to accept and obtain easements, as well as abandon and relocate easements. This is a standard request at each Spring Annual Town Meeting. Importantly we are not seeking, nor could we seek, authorization for the Selectmen to grant easements on Town-owned land to other parties; only Town Meeting has this authority.  The authorization for Selectmen to accept easements facilitates timely action when such opportunities arise, and on occasion such grants of easements to the Town involve the relocation of an existing easement, necessitating the abandonment of the old easement. As has been the case under prior authorizations, the acquisition of any easements would be at no cost to the Town.
3	What previous Warrant’s has this Article appeared and what has been the actions taken by Finance Committee, other Boards or Committees and Town Meeting?
Response	This has been a standing warrant article since the 2011 Fall Annual Town Meeting. The proposed motion includes language added through amendment at the 2016 Spring Annual Town Meeting; such language requires the Selectmen to hold a public hearing prior to voting to abandon or relocate an easement.

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4	Why is it required for the Town of Natick and for the Town Agency sponsor(s)?
Response	With this authorization, the Town is in a better position to respond quickly to an offer from a private party to grant an easement to the Town, and avoid the risk of losing such opportunity and/or having to pay for the easement.
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 funding is required.
6	To the best of your knowledge has any other actions of recent Town Meetings, Massachusetts General Laws or CMR's or other such legislation or actions, created a conflict for this article's purpose and objective?
Response	This article is consistent with prior Town Meeting actions, and permissible under MGL, CMR, etc.
7	To the best of your knowledge does a favorable action on the part of this Town Meeting create a conflict or a possible future conflict with the relevant Town Bylaws, financial and capital plans, comprehensive Master Plan, community values, or any relevant state laws and regulations?
Response	NO
8	Is there anything contemplated in the proposed motion that is different in how it's expected this article will be executed if acted on favorably by Town Meeting?
Response	NO
9	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 would lose the opportunity to obtain and/or relocate easements in a timely and cost-effective manner.