

Article 28

Establish Study Committee: Town of Natick Land Area (Julian Munnich et al.)

Motion:

“To establish a study committee of Town Meeting, appointed by the Moderator, to address, research, study, analyze, and recommend action regarding: The true gross land area of the Town and its makeup by statutory, regulatory, and ownership components; including but not limited to the total land area zoned for residential, commercial or industrial use as pertains to MGL c.40B §§ 20-23, 760 CMR 56 and/or related guidelines issued by DHCD or any office of the Commonwealth or established in any legal proceeding; and, without limitation:

To establish the number of committee members as five (5);

To establish the charge of said committee including, but not limited to:

- Identify any and all components of the calculation and all individual parcels or acreage owned by the United States; the Commonwealth; or any political subdivision thereof; the Department of Conservation and Recreation or any state public authority; or where all residential, commercial, and industrial development has been prohibited by deed, decree, zoning or restrictive order of the Department of Environmental Protection pursuant to M.G.L. c. 131, § 40A; or is dedicated to conservation or open space whether under control or ownership by trusts, corporations, partnerships, private parties, or otherwise; or is contained in the Subsidized Housing Inventory; and the size of all bodies of water located within Natick;
- Gather any other information necessary to analyze, evaluate, and calculate the Town’s position relative to sites potentially comprising one and one half per cent or more of the total land area zoned for residential, commercial, or industrial use.
- Identify and recommend any zoning changes or other actions that might strengthen or improve the Town’s position relative to meeting or exceeding any statutory or regulatory tests and criteria;
- Report its findings and recommendations to 2020 Spring Annual Town Meeting or such other date as Town Meeting shall establish provided, however, that this shall not preclude any preliminary or earlier report(s) to Town boards, committees, commissions, or to Town Meeting;

To authorize said committee to develop a database of properties to be included in and/or excluded from either the numerator or the denominator of any statutory calculation;

To provide that said committee shall have access to Town Counsel and to Town staff, including but not limited to the Community and Economic Development, DPW (GIS), and Finance (Assessors) divisions and may utilize the services of outside consultants;

To provide for a method to engage any such outside consultant or other vendor including, without limitation, a reserve fund transfer by the Finance Committee;

To appropriate, from Free Cash, the sum of \$5,000 to accomplish the purpose of said committee;

To set the term of said study committee to expire upon the dissolution of 2020 Spring Annual Town Meeting, unless otherwise extended by Town Meeting;

Said committee, being a multiple member body under the Town Charter, is authorized to sponsor warrant articles for any Annual or Special Town Meeting Warrant."