

# Warrant Article Questionnaire Citizen Petitions Articles

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

Article #TBD	Date Form Completed: February 11, 2019
Article Title: Amend Definition of “Dog Kennel” as Used in Zoning Bylaws	
Sponsor Name: Saul Beaumont	Email: saulbeaumont@hotmail.com

Question	Question
1	Provide the article motion exactly as it is intended to be voted on by the Finance Committee.
Response	<b>The motion shown on one page is attached to this questionnaire.</b> At the time of completing this questionnaire, there was no Warrant Article number assigned.
2	At a summary level and very clearly, what is proposed purpose and objective of this Warrant Article and the required Motion?
Response	<p>This past year there were several situations in residential zoned areas in Natick where the town residents were troubled by commercial dog entities applying for special permits for operation in their neighborhood. This caused the residents unnecessary grief, expense, and wasted time. The entire situation was caused by a definition in the bylaws that, despite the intention of the bylaw which was written in the 60s, could be interpreted to allow commercial dog kennels and dog daycares in residential zones.</p> <p>The new definitions are taken from Massachusetts General Laws which distinguishes between a personal dog kennel and a commercial dog kennel which will prevent the establishment of any commercial operations involving dogs in residential zoned areas RG and RS for which the bylaw currently allows commercial dog kennels, commercial dog daycare, and other commercial dog operations with a special permit.</p>
3	What does the sponsor gain from a positive action by Town Meeting on the motion?
Response	The sponsor is not an attorney and is not being compensated for this effort in any way. The sponsor, a Town Meeting Member, has nothing to gain personally except the satisfaction of helping residents who approached him for help in this matter. The goal is to avoid further unnecessary aggravation of residents in Districts RG and RS.

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4	Describe with some specificity how the sponsor envisions how: the benefits will be realized; the problem will be solved; the community at large will gain value in the outcome through the accompanied motion?
Response	There will no longer be the threat of repeating the four applications for Dog Kennel Special Permits that were made in 2018 for locations in a single family residential district because the bylaw will prohibit the establishment of a Commercial Dog Kennel in those districts. The community gain is the continued character of the neighborhoods the residents expected and have since they moved to Natick. There will no longer be the need of residents to hire an attorney to protect their neighborhood from unwanted kennels.
5	How does the proposed motion (and implementation) fit with the relevant Town Bylaws, financial and capital plan, comprehensive plan, and community values as well as relevant state laws and regulations
Response	Not only does this change fit with relevant Town Bylaws, it also represents and upgrade that aligns with the relevant state laws and regulations. There is no cost associated with this change. There is no impact on other town projects.
6	Have you considered and assessed, qualified and quantified the various impacts to the community such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Town infrastructure (traffic, parking, etc.)</li> <li>• Neighbors (noise, traffic, etc.);</li> <li>• Environment and green issues (energy conservation, pollution, trash, encouraging walking and biking, etc.);</li> </ul>
Response	There is no impact on the framework of other local effort currently underway and there is no state action pending.
7	Who are the critical participants in executing the effort envisioned by the article motion?  To this point what efforts have been made to involve those participants who may be accountable, responsible, consulted or just advised/informed on the impacts of executing the motion?
Response	The Planning Board will have new and clearer guidance in the bylaws to help them in their deliberation process for Special Permits.

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8	<p>What steps and communication has the sponsor attempted to assure that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Interested parties were notified in a timely way and had a chance to participate in the process, that</li> <li>• Appropriate town Boards &amp; Committees were consulted</li> <li>• Required public hearings were held</li> </ul>
Response	<p>Informal discussions have been held with some members of the Planning Board and Financial Committee. Both will formally review this Warrant Article in an open hearing prior to Town Meeting. Sponsor is coordinating with both bodies but dates have not been set at the time of completing this questionnaire.</p>
9	<p>Why is it required for the Town of Natick AND for the sponsor(s)?</p>
Response	<p>As mentioned earlier, this effort is to prevent unnecessary aggravation of residents. The Town is comprised of its residents. The only benefit to the sponsor is the satisfaction of helping the residents.</p>
10	<p>Since submitting the article petition have you identified issues that weren't initially considered in the development of the proposal?</p>
Response	<p>No new issues are known at this time.</p>
11	<p>What are other towns and communities in the Metro West area, or the Commonwealth of MA doing similar to what your motion seeks to accomplish</p>
Response	<p>Conversations were had with ten neighboring towns concerning commercial dog kennels in residential districts. Six did not allow it. Three allowed with a special permit with very strict conditions where the neighbors must accept all controls for odor, noise, sound, lighting, waste control, etc to allow granting of the permit.</p>
12	<p>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.</p>
Response	<p>The residents of zoning districts RG and RS will continue to have the very real threat of a commercial dog establishment next door with all the aggravation that entails. Approval helps the town to avoid imposing an unwanted business upon its residents in a residential district.</p>