

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

Article # 41	Date Form Completed: Aug 28, 2019
Article Title: Contact Information Requirement for Town Meeting Members and Elected Officials	
Sponsor Name: Patricia Sciarra	Email: psciarranatick@gmail.com

Question	Question
1	Provide the article motion exactly as it is intended to be voted on by the Finance Committee.
Response	Move that the Town vote to add the practice that Town Meeting Members and Elected Officials provide contact information in the form of an email address and/or phone number to the Town Clerk following their being sworn in. And that the practice go into effect following the 2020 Spring Annual Town Election.
2	At a summary level and very clearly, what is proposed purpose and objective of this Warrant Article and the required Motion?
Response	The purpose is to provide constituents better and easier access to their elected town meeting members and elected officials. This gives constituents an easy way to participate their government and to ask questions and offer opinions on town issues. It also will make it easier for town agencies, other elected officials and TMM to contact each other.
3	What does the sponsor gain from a positive action by Town Meeting on the motion?
Response	The sponsor as well as Natick residents gain the ability to easily obtain the contact information necessary to communicate with their TMM and elected officials.
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	Currently there is no easy way to contact TMM on a timely basis. The proposed solution would allow Natick residents to have the information necessary to timely contact them. The town website currently lists each precinct's meeting member names and addresses. Adding an email address to this existing list will add value by providing an avenue to contact representatives in an expedient way.
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	This article seeks to establish a practice and therefore does not impact the Town Bylaws or capital plan. For a minimal cost of maintaining and publishing a list, we could substantially improve communications.

6	Have you considered and assessed, qualified and quantified the various impacts to the community such as:
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Town infrastructure (traffic, parking, etc.) • Neighbors (noise, traffic, etc.); • Environment and green issues (energyconservation, pollution, trash, encouraging walking and biking, etc.);
Response	Email communication has no cost and could save residents the cost of mailing information to their representatives which includes the cost of paper and printing.
7	<p>Who are the critical participants in executing the effort envisioned by the article motion?</p> <p>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?</p>
Response	The town clerk's office would be responsible for collecting and maintaining the contact information. It should be noted that the town clerk's office already has an excel list of elected officials and this is already published on the website. We met with the town moderator, the town clerk and the town's information officer to discuss how to implement this article. All agreed that it could be easily accomplished.
8	<p>What steps and communication has the sponsor attempted to assure that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interested parties were notified in a timely way and had a chance to participate in the process, that • Appropriate town Boards & Committees were consulted • Required public hearings were held
Response	See response above.
9	Why is it required for the Town of Natick AND for the sponsor(s)?
Response	This is not required but shows that the town is interested in citizen participation in town government. It also improves communications within the government.
10	Since submitting the article petition have you identified issues that weren't initially considered in the development of the proposal?

Response	No additional issues identified.
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11	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
Response	There are other towns in the area that have a representative town government and are publishing e-mail addresses and/or telephone numbers on their town websites.
12	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	If this article is not approved, we will continue to deny citizens 21 st century access to their elected officials and town meeting members.