

Warrant Article Questionnaire Non-Standard Town Agency Articles

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

Article #23	Date Form Completed: 3-17-21
Article Title: Accept State Legislation Allowing Lower Speed Limits	
Sponsor Name: Select Board & Transportation Advisory Committee	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	<p>Motion A <i>Move to accept Section 17C of Chapter 90 of the General Laws to allow the Select Board to establish lower speed limits of 25 miles per hour on town-owned roadways within a thickly settled or business district.</i></p> <p>Motion B <i>Move to accept Section 18B of Chapter 90 of the General Laws to allow the Select Board to establish safety zones with speed limits of 20 miles per hour.</i></p>
2	At a summary level and very clearly, what is the proposed purpose and objective of this Warrant Article and the accompanying Motion?
Response	Town Meeting acceptance of the statutes is a prerequisite to the Select Board establishing lower default speed limits on some or all town roads, or establishing future safety zones. Lower vehicle speeds are part of a strategy to improve safety and make our roads more welcoming to all users.
3	Has this article or one of a very similar scope and substance been on a previous Warrant Article and what have been the actions taken by the 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Legislative action is required. • Reduced vehicle speeds are part of a strategy to improve safety on municipal roads. • More than 50 Massachusetts cities and towns have accepted recent state legislation allowing lower speed limits.
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 or requested at this time.

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6	<p>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?</p> <p>Does this article seek to amend, rescind or otherwise change any prior action of Natick Town Meeting?</p>
Response	MGL Chapter 90, Section 17B relates to lower vehicle speed limits, and Section 18C relates to special slow zones. Town Meeting acceptance of both sections is required for the Select Board to implement.
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	Article 23 is part of a continuum of efforts to improve safety and accessibility for all residents and visitors by ensuring our streets are welcoming, safe and designed for the needs of all residents and visitors. It is complementary to the Complete Streets policy and initiative and consistent with the safety and accessibility goals of the Natick 2030 Master Plan (Section 4, Transportation).
8	Who are the critical participants in executing the effort envisioned by the article motion?
Response	<p>(Type response here)</p> <p>Select Board, Town Administration, Transportation Advisory Committee, Police, Community and Economic Development, the public, and for Section 18B, the COA, Schools and other parties.</p> <p>If this legislation is accepted by Town Meeting, the Select Board, TAC and Safety Committee or their designees and staff will determine whether lower speed limits will be recommended town-wide or in certain areas, and if the latter, how those will be determined. In addition, the Board, staff and other committees will recommend whether and how to address speed limits on selected streets that have been established by Special Speed Regulations.</p>
9	<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 ● Appropriate Town Boards & Committees were consulted ● Required public hearings were held
Response	The Transportation Advisory Committee initiated this discussion in 2017 and has since held discussions with Town staff and other committees, including the Safety Committee; it has been

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	on the committee's agenda many times; the topic was also discussed at a public meeting on January 26, 2021.
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 will not have the opportunity to reduce speed limits on any streets in Natick, nor to establish additional slow zones in accordance with this legislation.