

Warrant Article Questionnaire Non-Standard Town Agency Articles

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

Article #14	Date Form Completed: 3-17-21
Article Title: Establish and Authorize Revolving Fund for Cochituate Rail Trail Maintenance and Enhancements	
Sponsor Name: Town Administrator	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	Move that the Town vote pursuant to Chapter 44, Section 53E1/2 of the Massachusetts General Laws, to establish a Cochituate Rail Trail Maintenance and Enhancements Revolving Fund in order to utilize donations, gifts, or other funds received in order to fund costs associated with the maintenance and enhancement of the Cochituate Rail Trail; further, to authorize the Town Administrator, to expend money from such revolving fund; and to limit the total amount which may be expended from such fund up to and including \$50,000 during the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2021.
2	At a summary level and very clearly, what is the proposed purpose and objective of this Warrant Article and the accompanying Motion?
Response	To establish a dedicated fund for CRT maintenance and improvements using revenue from donations and sponsorships.
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"> • TM action is required to create a Revolving Fund; subsequently it needs only to be reauthorized. • A dedicated fund provides the assurance that funds will be expended consistent with the intention of donations and sponsorships.
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	Not directly. Expenditures from revolving funds are not subject to Town Meeting appropriation.

Warrant Article Questionnaire Non-Standard Town Agency Articles

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	It is consistent with past Town Meeting actions on other revolving funds.
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 14 is consistent with longstanding planning for the CRT, and is compliant with state laws and regulations.
8	Who are the critical participants in executing the effort envisioned by the article motion?
Response	The CRT Advisory Committee and Town Staff (primarily DPW and CED) will help identify the needs that may be met with this fund. The Friends of Natick Trails are primarily responsible for fundraising, per the terms of an agreement with the Town. About \$100,000 have been raised to date.
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 Select Board and Administration were asked to sponsor this article, following discussions at the CRT Advisory Committee, and it was discussed at a December 2, 2020 Board meeting.
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	Existing and future funds received may not be expended under the requested authority and we will need to identify another mechanism to direct funding from sponsorships and donations.

Warrant Article Questionnaire
Non-Standard Town Agency Articles