

Warrant Article Questionnaire
Non-Standard Town Agency Articles

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

Article # 26	Date Form Completed: 04.01.2022
Article Title: Open Space Public Benefit Amenity	
Sponsor Name: Planning Board	Email: aloomis@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><i>Move to amend Section 200 – Definitions of the Natick Zoning Bylaw as follows:</i></p> <p>Modify the definition of Open Space Public Benefit Amenity by inserting the phrase “exclusive of setbacks” immediately after the phrase “excess pervious landscaping.”</p> <p>So that the <u>amended</u> definition shall read:</p> <p>Open Space Public Benefit Amenity: A public benefit amenity in the form of a park or excess pervious landscaping, exclusive of setbacks, available for passive or active recreation, or leisure use, by the public and which may include an area or areas for trails and ways for pedestrians and non-motorized vehicles.</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	The intent of Article 26 is to provide clarification that required setbacks not be permitted for calculating the Open Space Public Benefit Amenity area. Setbacks are not considered a buildable areas and therefore must remain undeveloped.												
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	<p>The Planning Board requests that Article 23 be referred back to the sponsor. Such action has not been acted upon previously.</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="text-align: center;">Warrant Period Ex: 2021 SATM</th> <th style="text-align: center;">Other Committees Ex: Planning Bd refer</th> <th style="text-align: center;">FinCom Action Ex: Referral</th> <th style="text-align: center;">Town Meeting Ex: Referral</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">Spring Town Meeting, Article 29</td> <td style="text-align: center;">Sponsor Planning Board</td> <td style="text-align: center;">03.26.2015 vote of 14-0-0</td> <td style="text-align: center;">05.05.2015, passed unanimously</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">Spring Town Meeting, Article 25</td> <td style="text-align: center;">Sponsor Conservation Fund Study Committee</td> <td style="text-align: center;">03.10.2016 vote of 12-0-0</td> <td style="text-align: center;">05.03.2016, passed unanimously (105-0-0)</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Warrant Period Ex: 2021 SATM	Other Committees Ex: Planning Bd refer	FinCom Action Ex: Referral	Town Meeting Ex: Referral	Spring Town Meeting, Article 29	Sponsor Planning Board	03.26.2015 vote of 14-0-0	05.05.2015, passed unanimously	Spring Town Meeting, Article 25	Sponsor Conservation Fund Study Committee	03.10.2016 vote of 12-0-0	05.03.2016, passed unanimously (105-0-0)
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4	Why is it required for the Town of Natick and for the Town Agency sponsor(s)?
Response	To provide clarification to the users of this term defined in Section 200 – Definitions
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	Funding is not required for Article 26. The proposed language is intended to provide clarification to the users of the term Open Space Public Benefit Amenity
6	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? Does this article seek to amend, rescind or otherwise change any prior action of Natick Town Meeting?
Response	Article 26 is proposed for clarification of an existing definition, which is an optional provision of the Natick Zoning Bylaw.
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 26 is supported by the Master Plan in creating open space when possible.
8	Who are the critical participants in executing the effort envisioned by the article motion?
Response	The Planning Board, when reviewing projects that propose an Open Space Public Benefit Amenity
9	What steps and communication has the sponsor attempted to assure that: <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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Legal ad for the March 16th public hearing was published in the Metro West Daily Newspaper on February 25th and March 4th ● Legal mailers were send to the abutting communities and required parties of interest prior to March 4th ● Public hearings for Article 26 were held on March 16th and March 23rd

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10	Since submitting the article have you identified issues that weren't initially considered in the development of the proposal?
Response	No issues were identified since the submittal of the request.
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	Lack of clarification to the development community, with Open Space Public Benefit Amenity located in the setbacks.