

Warrant Article Questionnaire Citizen Petitions Articles

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

Article #29	Date Form Completed: September 9, 2022
Article Title: Natick Charles River Dam	
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	Move that the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$925,054 to be expended under the direction of the Town Administrator for the purpose of rehabilitating the Natick Charles River Dam to comply with current Massachusetts standards for dams and that to meet this appropriation the Treasurer with the approval of the Select Board is authorized to borrow \$925,054 under Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 44, Section 7, as amended, or any other enabling authority and to issue bonds or notes of the Town therefore aggregating not more than \$925,054 in principal amount and that the Town Administrator with the approval of the Select Board is authorized to take any action necessary to carry out this program, and further, that any premium received by the Town upon sale of any bonds or notes approved by this vote, less any such premium applied to the payment of the costs of issuance of such bonds or notes, may be applied to the payment of costs approved by this vote in accordance with Chapter 44, Section 20 of the General Laws, thereby reducing the amount authorized to be borrowed to pay such costs by a like amount.
2	At a summary level and very clearly, what is proposed purpose and objective of this Warrant Article and the required Motion?
Response	To assure that Natick residents voices are heard through the Town Meeting Member votes at town meeting in an effort to assure that the Charles River dam is repaired and maintained properly to comply with Massachusetts standards so that it will continue to serve the residents and visitors of Natick with pleasure and relaxation for the foreseeable future.
3	What does the sponsor gain from a positive action by Town Meeting on the motion?
Response	Funding will be provided to repair and maintain the dam for the foreseeable future.
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	The dam will continue to provide protection, enjoyment, and relaxation for many generations to come.

Warrant Article Questionnaire
Citizen Petitions Articles

Warrant Article Questionnaire Citizen Petitions Articles

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	Natick has had the obligation to maintain the dam since it was built in 1934 and nothing has occurred to change that status. Recently, \$625,000 was appropriated in 2018 SATM Article 14 Motion A for engineering and repairs by a vote of 110-2, of which \$210,054 has been expended. In addition, there is \$1,250,000 on the books that was appropriated by TM in 2019 SATM Article 15 Motion B for engineering and repairs by a vote 103-2. In addition, both the Board of Selectmen and Finance Committee voted favorable action unanimously for both Articles. However no matter what it takes to repair the dam, it remains the obligation of the town to maintain as it has been doing since it was built in 1934.
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 (energy conservation, pollution, trash, encouraging walking and biking, etc.);
Response	Repair and maintenance of the dam only has a positive impact on the community as it has since 1934 in its approximately same configuration
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 Department of Public Works who will execute the motion has an estimate of \$2,640,000 to rehabilitate the dam to comply with current Massachusetts standards for dams. .

Warrant Article Questionnaire Citizen Petitions Articles

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	<p>The purpose of this article is to allow the resident voices to be heard through the votes of Town Meeting Members at Town Meeting. The Select Board reviewed it at their meeting of September 7, 2022. Informal discussions were held with the Natick Director of Finance, John Townsend and Director of Public Works, Jeremy Marsette. Also, this is a continuation of the process started in 2018 SATM where TM voted appropriation of \$675,000 for dam engineering and repair by a vote of 110-2 and in 2019 SATM where TM voted appropriation of \$1,250,000 for dam engineering and repair by a vote of 103-2. In addition, both the Board of Selectmen and Finance Committee voted favorable action unanimously for both Articles.</p>
9	<p>Why is it required for the Town of Natick AND for the sponsor(s)?</p>
Response	<p>We in town government are guided by the Natick bylaws which include the statement: to preserve and to promote the life, health, safety, morals, convenience and welfare of the townspeople,(to lessen the danger from fire,) to improve and beautify the Town, (to protect real estate from damaging uses of adjacent property) and to further the social and economic prosperity of the community, We have things like this and art and sports, etc., because it gives us pleasure and reason to enjoy. We are very fortunate to have this gem of a dam and we must maintain this dam for future generations as we promised when we took our oath of office.</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.</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>This is a unique treasure of Natick.</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>Failure to be approved at Town Meeting jeopardizes the future of the dam and it would be lost forever for the residents, visitors, and future generations of Natick.</p>