

Warrant Article Questionnaire Non-Standard Town Agency Articles

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

Article #20	Date Form Completed: 3/7/23
Article Title: Amend the Town of Natick By-Laws – Create New Committee	
Sponsor Name: Town Administrator	Email: jerrickson@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>Move that the Town vote to amend the General Bylaws of the Town of Natick to add and enact Article 21C entitled “Community Preservation Committee”, for the purposes of establishing a Community Preservation Committee in accordance with the provisions of M.G.L. c. 44B, as follows:</p> <p><i>Please find the bylaw language in the attached document.</i></p> <p><i>This language has been reviewed and approved by Town Counsel.</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	<p>Town Meeting members voted to accept the Community Preservation Act (M.G.L. c. 44B) at the 2022 Spring Town Meeting and residents voted in the 2022 fall election to adopt the Community Preservation Act. Per M.G.L. c. 44B, a Community Preservation Committee needs to be established to review projects requesting funding through the Community Preservation Fund, and provide recommendations to Town Meeting to appropriate the funding.</p> <p>The bylaw will serve to establish the Committee and outline the duties, composition, and administration, which can be further refined through regulations adopted by the Committee once established.</p>
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	As the voters approved the adoption of the Community Preservation Act, a Community Preservation Committee must be established to regulate the funds once they become available.

Warrant Article Questionnaire Non-Standard Town Agency Articles

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	This article does not require funding.
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	This article does act in concert with Article 21 from the 2022 Spring Town Meeting which accepted Sections 3 to 7 of Chapter 44B of the General Laws, otherwise known as the Massachusetts Community Preservation Act.
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	The implementation of the proposed motion will allow for additional funding support for key issues identified in the Natick 2030 Plan including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acquisition, preservation and rehabilitation of parks, recreation facilities, and open space; • Acquisition, creation, and rehabilitation of affordable housing; and • Protect and promote awareness of Natick's historic heritage through increased historic programming.
8	Who are the critical participants in executing the effort envisioned by the article motion?
Response	Select Board, Planning Board, Conservation Commission, Recreation and Parks Commission, Housing Authority, and Historical Commission.
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	There were significant community engagement efforts by the group of residents who sponsored the STM 2021 warrant article and through the election.

Warrant Article Questionnaire
Non-Standard Town Agency Articles

	The Conservation Commission has an item on their 3/2/23 agenda to determine if they will vote to endorse the article. The Open Space Advisory Committee is planning to discuss and vote on endorsement at their 3/13/23 meeting. The Planning Board is planning to discuss and vote on endorsement at their 3/15/23 meeting. The Recreation and Parks Commission is planning to discuss and vote on endorsement at their 3/6/23 meeting. All of the meetings listed above are public meetings with the option for public comment.
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	Should the Warrant Article not be approved by Town Meeting the Town will be delayed in the implementation of the Community Preservation Act and funding will remain unused until a bylaw is approved establishing the Community Preservation Committee, which only Town Meeting has the authority to do.