

Warrant Article Questionnaire Citizen Petitions Articles

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

Article #34	Date Form Completed: March 12, 2023
Article Title: 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 to see what action the Town will take to request the Select Board to initiate repairs of the Natick Charles River Dam to the extent of the funding appropriated in the 2018 SATM, Article 14 Motion B, and in the 2019 SATM, Article 15, Motion B for that purpose or otherwise act thereon.
2	At a summary level and very clearly, what is proposed purpose and objective of this Warrant Article and the required Motion?
Response	The purpose of the Article is to allow the Town Meeting Members to express their opinion about repairing the dam. The objective is to get the agreement of Town Meeting to request the Select Board to rescind their decision to remove the dam and to start repair of the dam.
3	What does the sponsor gain from a positive action by Town Meeting on the motion?
Response	The Select Board has said that their decision could change in the future based on new information. We hope that with the request of the Town Meeting, the Select Board will rescind their previous vote and vote to repair the dam.
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 is an iconic image in town and is loved by many people who derive great enjoyment and pleasure from it. Repair of the dam would allow this to continue for current residents and for the generations to come.

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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	(Type response here) This motion requests that the Select Board implement the work for which funds were appropriated in 2018 and 2019 SATMs.
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 of the dam preserves the dam for generations to come.
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 Select Board has been urged to fulfill the obligation for which the town appropriated funds in 2018 and 2019 SATMs by votes of 110-2 and 103-2.
8	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, that • Appropriate town Boards & Committees were consulted • Required public hearings were held
Response	This was all accomplished in 2018 and 2019. Town Meeting appropriated all the funds that were requested by the town by votes of 110-2 and 103-2.

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9	Why is it required for the Town of Natick AND for the sponsor(s)?
Response	It is the strong opinion of a large group of Natick residents including more than 2200 online petition signers which we believe is shared by many others who have not been heard, that the Natick dam and beloved waterfall should be preserved and maintained.
10	Since submitting the article petition have you identified issues that weren't initially considered in the development of the proposal?
Response	We find more information every day and probably will be adding to our presentation up to the beginning of town meeting.
11	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
Response	This is unique to Natick.
12	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	There would be many sad and disappointed people in Natick including many children who love the waterfall and the more than 2200 people who took the time to sign the petition to save the dam.