

Warrant Article Questionnaire Non-Standard Town Agency Articles

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

Article #23	Date Form Completed: 3/14/23
Article Title: Amend the Town of Natick By-Law Article 79A	
Sponsor Name: Conservation Commission	Email: crundelli@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 Article 79A of the Town Bylaws to improve the Town's regulation of land disturbance activity, and streamline the administration of the Bylaw</p> <p>Delete Section 1 through Section 14 in their entirety and replace with the following text in its entirety: <i>See attached document for language.</i></p> <p><i>This language is currently under review 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 at the 2019 Fall Town Meeting to amend Article 79A of the Town Bylaws. After two years of implementation, Town staff are proposing some additional amendments to the bylaw to further improve the resiliency benefits of the bylaw and streamline the administration of stormwater management efforts for staff and applicants.</p> <p>The bylaw will continue the Town's compliance efforts with the Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) regulations, improve overall resiliency in the face of climate change, and achieve the recommendations found in the Natick 2030+ Master Plan, 2018 Hazard Mitigation Plan, and 2018 Community Resilience Building Report.</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	Yes. A similarly scoped article was on the 2019 Fall Town Meeting Warrant and was unanimously recommended for favorable action by the Finance Committee, and passed by majority vote during session 3 of the 2019 Fall Town Meeting.
4	Why is it required for the Town of Natick and for the Town Agency sponsor(s)?

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Response	As we move through Year 5 and into Year 6 of MS4, additional requirements regarding stormwater management are placed on the Town. The proposed updates to the Article 79A further our compliance with MS4.
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 work in concert with Article 19 from the 2019 Fall Town Meeting, which also amended Natick Bylaws Article 79A.
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 proposed motion furthers compliance with the state's MS4 permit and fits with the goals outlined in the Natick 2030+ Master Plan.
8	Who are the critical participants in executing the effort envisioned by the article motion?
Response	Conservation Commission, Natick Department of Public Works Engineering Division, Natick Department of Public Health, Building Commission/Inspectors
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	While no public hearings are required to review the bylaw changes, as Article 79A is not a Zoning Bylaw, there was engagement with the community regarding the update. The Conservation Commission reviewed and discussed the proposed language changes at a public meeting where public comment was accepted, and the bylaw was reviewed by developers.

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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.
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 continue to implement the existing bylaw language and determine the reasons why Town Meeting did not approve the update. Town staff will revise the language to pursue administration improvements while mitigating the concerns that prevented approval.