

Warrant Article Questionnaire Non-Standard Town Agency Articles

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

Article # 10 A	Date Form Completed: 9/1/2023
Article Title: Establish and Authorize Revolving Funds	
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	See pages 4-6																
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 objective is to establish a revolving fund that allows the Town to use funds received from state, federal and utility programs for completing qualifying energy efficiency and clean energy capital projects to help pay for future energy efficiency and clean energy capital projects.																
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>Yes. Since the Massachusetts modernization act in 2016 the Town has established and authorized a number of 53E1/2 revolving funds.</p> <p>In 2015, the Town also established a Revolving Fund to capture monies received from an energy efficiency program offered through the Mass Save Pay for Performance Program. This was subsequently renewed as part of the Municipal Modernization Act and is listed in Section 11 of the Chapter 41A in the Natick Town By-Laws.</p> <p>The Pay for Performance account remains active, but never received any funds due to the closure of that program. The proposed motion for the Energy Efficiency and Clean Energy Capital Program provides for great flexibility as state and utility programs change.</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 10px;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="width: 25%;">Warrant Period</th> <th style="width: 25%;">Other Committees</th> <th style="width: 25%;">FinCom Action</th> <th style="width: 25%;">Town Meeting</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Ex: 2021 SATM</td> <td>Ex: Planning Bd refer</td> <td>Ex: Referral</td> <td>Ex: Referral</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2015 SATM</td> <td></td> <td>Favorable Action</td> <td>Passed</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Warrant Period	Other Committees	FinCom Action	Town Meeting	Ex: 2021 SATM	Ex: Planning Bd refer	Ex: Referral	Ex: Referral	2015 SATM		Favorable Action	Passed				
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4	Why is it required for the Town of Natick and for the Town Agency sponsor(s)?
Response	<p>In the next five years, Natick’s capital plan calls for significant investment in infrastructure that will result in energy and emissions reduction (e.g., replacement of HVAC systems and vehicles that are at the end of their useful life). These projects are expected to qualify for payments from federal, state and utility programs based on energy performance standards, and the Town would like to use these payments to “pay it forward”, and reinvest said monies into the completion of future energy efficiency and clean energy capital projects.</p> <p>This will help ensure capital is available for important energy efficiency and clean energy projects. In doing so, it will also help the Town be more nimble at applying for grants, which increasingly require a cash match and have short (6 week or less) application windows.</p> <p>Further, dollars invested in energy efficiency and clean energy projects often result in cost savings for the Town.</p>
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	<p>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?</p> <p>Does this article seek to amend, rescind or otherwise change any prior action of Natick Town Meeting?</p>
Response	Yes. MGL allows for the establishment of revolving funds. The Town Bylaws have authorized revolving funds, section 41a.
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	At the 2018 FATM, Natick adopted a goal to achieve net zero emissions. Subsequently, the Town developed a Net Zero Action Plan, which calls for transitioning Natick’s public buildings to net zero emissions over time. The proposed motion would advance this goal by reinvesting funds secured for completing clean energy projects into the completion of future energy efficiency and clean energy capital projects.

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	It would also provide Natick with the flexibility to apply for grants and reduce the cost of capital projects to Natick taxpayers.
8	Who are the critical participants in executing the effort envisioned by the article motion?
Response	Sustainability, Facilities, Public Works, Town Administration and Finance.
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	The Executive Director of Public Works and Facilities partnered with the Sustainability Office to propose this Article and Town Administration sponsored it.
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	Any payments the Town receives from state, federal or utility programs for qualifying energy efficiency and clean energy projects would be put in the General Fund and require Town Meeting appropriation, thus potentially delaying action on energy saving and emissions reduction initiatives.