

Warrant Article Questionnaire Non-Standard Town Agency Articles

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

Article # 10 B	Date Form Completed: 8/31/2023
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	Please see attached motion																								
2	At a summary level and very clearly, what is the proposed purpose and objective of this Warrant Article and the accompanying Motion?																								
Response	To establish a revolving fund that gives more flexibility to the Recreation and Parks division of Community Services. The proposed 53E1/2 allows the division to use funds to pay staffing which is not limited to seasonal or part-time employees. The division currently uses a 53D revolving fund. With the establishment of the new fund, the old fund will be phased out over the course of the current FY and asked to be dissolved at a future Town Meeting.																								
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> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 10px;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="width: 25%;">Warrant Period Ex: 2021 SATM</th> <th style="width: 25%;">Other Committees Ex: Planning Bd refer</th> <th style="width: 25%;">FinCom Action Ex: Referral</th> <th style="width: 25%;">Town Meeting Ex: Referral</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td></tr> <tr><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td></tr> <tr><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td></tr> <tr><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td></tr> <tr><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td></tr> </tbody> </table>	Warrant Period Ex: 2021 SATM	Other Committees Ex: Planning Bd refer	FinCom Action Ex: Referral	Town Meeting Ex: Referral																				
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	Comments:
4	Why is it required for the Town of Natick and for the Town Agency sponsor(s)?
Response	The Recreation and Parks Division has used a revolving fund since the passing of prop 2 ½ back in the 1980s. The fund that was established was a 53D account. In looking at the future needs and opportunities for the department it was determined that the 53E1/2 would provide greater flexibility.
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	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	The division utilizes user fees, participant fees and donations to cover the costs of programs and services. Roughly 1.2+ million dollars of revenue is collected through the current 53D annually to offer 200+ programs, manage Dug Pond operations, field permitting, and support multiple community events (Spooktacular, Tree Lighting, Movies on Common, Concerts) Town wide.
8	Who are the critical participants in executing the effort envisioned by the article motion?

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Response	Community Services Department, Town Administration and Finance.
9	<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 ● Appropriate Town Boards & Committees were consulted ● Required public hearings were held
Response	Due to the proposed nature of this change, those participating in programs and services would not see a difference. The Recreation and Parks Commission has reviewed this change with the Deputy Community Services Director - Recreation and Parks.
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	If this article is not approved - status quo. The Department will continue to be limited by the constraints of the 53D revolving fund.