

## Warrant Article 1: Measurers of Wood and Bark

**Recommendation:** FAVORABLE ACTION on Warrant Article 1 by a vote of 15-0-0.

<b>Executive Summary</b>	Each year, the Select Board is called up to appoint two Measurers of Wood and Bark, whose task it is to ensure that cords of firewood sold in Brookline measure eight feet long, four feet wide and for feet high.
<b>Voting Yes will...</b>	Call upon the Select Board two appoint two Measurers of Wood and Bark, whose task it is to ensure that cords of firewood sold in Brookline measure eight feet long, four feet wide and for feet high.
<b>Voting No will...</b>	Eliminate this position.
<b>Financial impact</b>	The positions do not draw a salary, stipend or other remunerative benefit, and the Town incurs no current financial cost or future pension or OPEB liability. The Town does print several sheets of paper every year to send this description out to Town Meeting Members but this cost is considered de minimus.

### Introduction

The position of Measurer of Wood and Bark was an early effort at consumer protection, important when homes were heated by wood and town dwellers had to purchase their fuel from vendors who came in from rural areas with their loads of cut and split cordwood.

Even into the 20<sup>th</sup> Century, the consumer protection aspect of the office remained. A town report from 1902 researched by Ken Liss of the Brookline Historical Society states that the town did not have a measurer that year. A number of complaints were filed regarding substandard cords of wood, and shortages were found in each case.

### Discussion

At the spring 2000 Town Meeting the article was dropped because the Measurers of Wood and Bark were considered to be unnecessary. But in the fall of that same year, Town Meeting required that this traditional article be reinstated. The Advisory Committee in its report at the time noted:

“Of course the Measurers of Wood and Bark are unnecessary! They’ve been unnecessary for as far back as anyone now living can remember! But it was a harmless tradition, which cost nothing (except for the paper and ink used to print the Article in the Combined Reports) and it was a link with our origins in a less mechanized society.”

### Recommendation

By a vote of 15-0 with no abstentions, the Advisory Committee recommends FAVORABLE ACTION on the following motion under Article 1.

**VOTED:** That the Town establish that the number of Measurers of Wood and Bark be two, to be appointed by the Select Board.

ARTICLE 1 ADVISORY COMMITTEE VOTES

Article Description	Measurers of Wood & Bark
AC recommendation (Favorable Action unless indicated)	15-0-0
Scott Ananian	Y
Carla Benka	Y
Ben Birnbaum	Y
Harry Bohrs	Y
Cliff Brown	Y
John Doggett	Y
Katherine Florio	
Harry Friedman	Y
David-Marc Goldstein	Y
Neil Gordon	Y
Susan Granoff	Y
Kelly Hardebeck	Y
Anita Johnson	
Georgia Johnson	
Alisa Jonas	
Janice Kahn	
Carol Levin	
Pam Lodish	
Linda Olson Pehlke	Y
Donelle O’Neal, Sr.	
David Pollak	Y
Stephen Reeders	
Carlos Ridruejo	Y
Lee Selwyn	
Alok Somani	Y
Christine Westphal	
Dennis Doughty *	
* Chairperson does not vote except to break a tie	