

## Warrant Article 10: Transfer of funds to support developing of Comprehensive Plan

**Recommendation:** FAVORABLE ACTION by a vote of 20-0-0.

<b>Executive Summary</b>	WA 10 would make funding available to support the comprehensive planning efforts described in WA 26 from the November 2021 Special Town Meeting, including data services and analysis to better understand the existing conditions of the built environment in Brookline. The database work is a precursor to the planning effort that had been overwhelmingly adopted by Town Meeting in November 2021. However, no action has thus far been taken by the Select Board on implementing WA 26.
<b>Voting Yes will...</b>	Make available approximately \$188,644 in previously-approved CIP funds that Town Meeting had appropriated to the Department of Planning and Community Development in 2018 to support a total reorganization of the Brookline Zoning By-Law but which have never been expended, to support the planning effort that was overwhelmingly adopted by Town Meeting in November 2021.
<b>Voting No will...</b>	Prevent the November 2021 WA26 mandate from being carried out.
<b>Financial impact</b>	The funds that are to be redirected for this purpose were allocated to the Planning Department in the 2018 CIP. Redirecting these funds for this purpose will have no effect upon the FY23 budget.

### Introduction

The May 2018 Annual Town Meeting adopted, in WA 7, an appropriation of \$200,000 in CIP funding to support an undertaking being requested by the then-Director of the Department of Planning and Community Development for a study to reorganize the Brookline Zoning By-law. That project was abandoned after \$5,356 had been spent, leaving a balance of \$194,644. The Petitioners seek to redirect these unspent funds to support a related undertaking – one that had been overwhelmingly supported (by a vote of 219 in favor, 2 opposed) at the November 2021 Town Meeting. The Petitioners explain that “Warrant Article 26 specifically requests that the Select Board, in consultation with the Director of Planning and Community Development, appoint a Planning Process Study Committee, for an inclusive, community-driven planning and zoning reform process, and that the Select Board endeavor to seek and provide adequate funding to retain all necessary consultants and additional planning staff to successfully complete the work of the Planning Process Study Committee and the implementation of its recommendations.” However, no action has been taken by the Select Board with respect to WA26 since its adoption

nearly five months ago. WA10 would make these previously-approved but as-yet-unused CIP funds available to support the objectives of WA26.

### **Discussion**

The Advisory Committee received more than fifty (50) e-mails from members of the public in support of WA 10. WA10 received unanimous support from members of the Advisory Committee. It was noted that the monies that had been previously allocated (in 2018) were intended to improve our zoning, and that's what this WA will accomplish, but in a more thoughtful rather than in the simply mechanical way that had been originally contemplated in the 2018 allocation. The Planning Director advised the Committee that a small portion of the unused 2018 funds allocation, which she had estimated at about \$6,000, is currently being expended on work being undertaken by General Code, the contractor to the Planning Department, to update the online version of the zoning by-law. She advised that approximately \$6,000 less than the amount stated in Warrant Article 10 would thus be available. On the basis of this estimate, the Advisory Committee amended the dollar amount stated in WA 10 to \$188,644, representing the funds that would be available to support the comprehensive planning effort contemplated in the November 2021 STM WA26.

### **Recommendation**

By a vote of 20-0-0, the Advisory Committee recommends FAVORABLE ACTION on WA 10 as amended.

VOTED: That the Town transfer the sum of ~~\$194,644~~ \$188,644 from the special appropriation under item 38 of Article 7 at the 2018 Annual Town Meeting to be expended under the direction of the Director of Planning and Community Development, with any necessary contracts over \$100,000 to be approved by the Select Board, to support the comprehensive planning efforts described by Article 26 of the November 2021 Special Town Meeting including data services and analysis to better understand the existing conditions of the built environment in Brookline.

ARTICLE 10 ADVISORY COMMITTEE VOTES

Article Description	Redirect funds for comprehensive planning
AC recommendation (Favorable Action unless indicated)	20-0-0
Scott Ananian	Y
Carla Benka	Y
Ben Birnbaum	Y
Harry Bohrs	
Cliff Brown	Y
John Doggett	Y
Katherine Florio	Y
Harry Friedman	Y
David-Marc Goldstein	Y
Neil Gordon	
Susan Granoff	Y
Kelly Hardebeck	Y
Anita Johnson	Y
Georgia Johnson	Y
Alisa Jonas	Y
Janice Kahn	Y
Carol Levin	Y
Pam Lodish	Y
Linda Olson Pehlke	Y
Donelle O’Neal, Sr.	
David Pollak	Y
Stephen Reeders	
Carlos Ridruejo	Y
Lee Selwyn	Y
Alok Somani	Y
Christine Westphal	
Dennis Doughty *	
* Chairperson does not vote except to break a tie	