

Advisory Committee – Warrant Article Questionnaire - Instructions

2022

Thanks for submitting a warrant article to Town Meeting. The Advisory Committee (the “AC”) assigns all articles to a subcommittee, which holds a public hearing that you should plan on attending. The subcommittee chair or a designee will work with you to set a mutually convenient date, within the confines of the time the subcommittee has available.

You do not need to make a formal presentation to the subcommittee, but it would be extremely helpful if you would complete the questionnaire below, answering only the questions that are relevant to your article. Please note that completing this questionnaire is discretionary. There is nothing to compel a sponsor under Massachusetts General Laws or the Town Bylaws for anything that is being requested.

Please enter your responses on this form¹ and email it at least three days in advance of the subcommittee hearing to the subcommittee chair and to lpertscher@brooklinema.gov.

Providing your responses in advance will make the subcommittee hearing more efficient and quite possibly more satisfactory to all parties. (You may be asked for more detail at the hearing.)

After its hearing, the subcommittee will prepare a report for the AC, and you will be invited to attend a meeting of the Committee. The AC may decide to accept the subcommittee’s report without debate. In that case, the subcommittee’s report will be included in the Combined Reports, a document that is published in advance of Town Meeting and distributed to all Town Meeting Members. Alternatively, the AC may have a full discussion and debate, and then vote on a recommendation.

If that happens, you will be able to respond to questions and make a brief statement just before the full AC votes.

Note that the AC provides only recommendations to Town Meeting, and Town Meeting is not required to accept those recommendations. In addition, you will have an opportunity at Town Meeting to present your case for passing the warrant article.

We strongly recommended that you consult with Town Counsel or the Town Meeting Moderator to ensure that the article you submitted is in proper form, especially if it involves amending the Town’s General Bylaws or Zoning Bylaws. And if it involves Zoning, be sure to consult with the Community Planning & Development Department. Contact information for all parties is available on the Town’s website.

See pages 3-4 of the [Town Meeting Handbook](#), which explains how Town Meeting addresses warrant articles.

Thank you again for engaging in the civic life of the community.

¹ This is a fillable PDF, so you don’t need Word or one of its alternatives, For tech support with the form, contact msandman@brooklinema.gov.

Advisory Committee–Warrant Article
Questionnaire

Today's Date	9/16/22
Warrant Article #	3 for STM 2
Article Title	Budget Amendment pertaining to code enforcement activities
Petitioner(s)	Ishak TMM1, Zelkha TMM14, Lynn-Jones TMM1 et . al.
Petitioner's email	aishakpharmd@yahoo.com

Not all of these questions apply to all warrant articles. Just answer the ones that do, SAVE the form, ideally with a new file name, and send it back to the chair of the subcommittee charged with vetting your article and to lportscher@brooklinema.gov. Thank you.

	Question	Responses (Enter N/A for “Not Applicable”)
1	Provide the most recent version of the article exactly as it is intended to be voted on by Town Meeting. Please highlight any changes from the version that was originally submitted.	(Attach a separate document with the most recent version.)
2	<p>Goals & Benefits (Briefly, or send a separate file):</p> <p>a. What is the intended policy goal of the proposed Warrant Article?</p> <p>b. Why is this important for the Town?</p> <p>c. Is this something that the Town should do, especially if there are State or Federal resources dedicated to the issue?</p> <p>d. How does the policy goal and the proposed action solve a problem? Does it provide a new benefit, or extend some existing benefit?</p> <p>e. Could Town staff or a Town Board or Committee address the issue effectively without action by Town Meeting?</p>	<p>A. To provide the Division of Parks and Open Space with resources needed to address the waste issues causing the current 2+ year rat infestation in our Town.</p> <p>B. There has been a 4-fold increase in rat related complaints over the past 3 years. Multiple precincts have had issues with rats in nearby public areas that are deficient in waste bins. As the utilization of parks and open spaces increased during the pandemic, the necessary increase in rat-proof waste containers has not occurred. The current rat infestation has become a public health emergency across all sections of our Town.</p> <p>C. This article is a request to review all sources available from state/federal to local options to address the necessary budget request.</p> <p>D. This article fills a significant budgetary <i>need to address an infrastructural deficiency which is a basic duty of local government</i>. It would address approximately 25% of the estimated waste bin shortage while also expanding the Park and Open Space division by one position to address the staff shortage and necessary maintenance of waste containers.</p> <p>E. There have been previous requests by the relevant Town staff to seek these resources, but there wasn't sufficient funding at the time.</p>

Advisory Committee–Warrant Article
Questionnaire

3	Does the petitioner, now or in the future, have an equity interest or realize a direct or indirect financial benefit from positive action by Town Meeting? If so, what are those interests or benefits? Please disclose any potential conflict of interest.	No
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	Question	Responses (Enter N/A for “Not Applicable”)
4	<p>General questions:</p> <p>a. Why is the proposed solution workable and effective?</p> <p>b. Is there a financial benefit from the proposed solution?</p> <p>c. Who will benefit and who might not benefit from the proposed action?</p> <p>d. What are the perceived pros and cons, both in the short and long term?</p> <p>e. What research on the topic supports or does not support the proposed article?</p> <p>f. What alternatives to the proposed action were considered?</p>	<p>A. The rat population growth can be partially traced to increased waste in public areas. This article would provide more bins in the needed areas, which in the long term will encourage continued use of our parks in an environmentally friendly manner. In short, these waste bins fit an existing need while addressing the urgent rat infestation problem.</p> <p>B. Potentially a decrease in staff time to clean areas that have litter due to a shortage of proper waste containers. That time can be used to address other open space related needs.</p> <p>C. Areas with the most urgent trash/rat-related issues would most likely benefit. Rats will not.</p> <p>D. The arguments for have previously been stated.</p> <p>E. Research was previously done by the Division of Parks and Open Space.</p> <p>F. Other interventions and methods of enforcement are currently being promulgated by other departments to address other causes as part of a multi-pronged approach.</p>
5	<p>Consider the impact on town infrastructure (parking, roadways, parks, etc.); residents; the environment; employers; etc. Are there potential adverse effects from positive action on the article by Town Meeting?</p>	<p>Doubtful that there would be negative downstream issues from improving our waste containers and addressing the shortage.</p>
6	<p>Consider town priorities and allocation of funding. What amount of funding might be required to start and maintain the proposed action? What is the source of those funds? How does the proposed article fit within the operating and/or capital budgets?</p>	<p>The amount was outlined in the article. Approximately \$100,000/year would be needed to maintain the noted new purchase. The source is to be determined by the Select Board, but can come from ARP, the Community Preservation fund, or other resources from the state or federal government among other options.</p>
7	<p>How does the proposed article and implementation impact the Town administration and staff priorities? Will a department either need to divert staff from an existing program, subcontract the work or add staff?</p>	<p>This article accounts for the anticipated Town staffing need.</p>
8	<p>Who will be responsible for implementing the action that a favorable vote will require? Has the petitioner consulted with those participants?</p>	<p>This warrant article was discussed with the Division of Parks and Open Space and would address their urgent needs. They would implement it.</p>

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9	<p>Community Outreach:</p> <p>a. What steps has the petitioner taken to assure that interested parties were notified and provided an opportunity to participate in the preparation of the proposed article?</p> <p>b. Are there are Town Boards or Committees that might be consulted?</p> <p>c. If another board or committee has considered the action of the proposed article, please include a summary of the discussion and outcome.</p>	<p>A. DPH, DPW, and the Highway/Sanitation director have reviewed the proposed WA. The cost figures were based on the Division of Open Space estimate.</p> <p>B. Select Board since this article is asking them to identify the resources.</p>
10	<p>Prior Articles:</p> <p>a. Do you know whether Town Meeting previously considered any Warrant Articles that address the same or similar topic? If so, do you know what the</p>	<p>No</p> <hr/> <p>(Continue on next page)</p>

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	Question	Responses (Enter N/A for “Not Applicable”)
	outcome was? b. How does the proposed article differ from ones that were previously considered? c. Is there new information or are there new circumstances to support raising an issue that was previously considered by Town Meeting?	
11	Anything else you would like the subcommittee to know?	