

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	10/26/22
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 support the proposed Rodent Control Action Plan (RCAP) proposed by DPW, DPH, and the Town Administrator along with emphasizing the importance of prioritizing our waste infrastructure in the annual budget. It summarizes the needs and goals that should be addressed by the RCAP. Changing WA-3 (STM-2) to a resolution prevents the risk of having an imbalanced budget and is reflective of the reality that funds are limited at this point in time.</p> <p>B. There has been a 4-fold increase in rat related complaints over the past 3 years and complaint maps disclosed by Town Departments show an impact across nearly all precincts in town. In addition to the financial impact of property damage to our neighbors, the rat infestation has become a public health crisis.</p> <p>C. Yes, local infrastructure and departments need to be strengthened.</p> <p>D. This resolution voices support for prioritizing addressing this public health crisis when planning our 2023 budget and prioritizing hiring of employees.</p> <p>E. We hope that this resolution will encourage Town Departments and leadership to address the crisis urgently prior to the next Town Meeting.</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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Advisory Committee – Warrant Article Questionnaire
Fall 2021

	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. It summarizes the priorities to address the problem, while acknowledging the hard work behind the RCAP. It is non-binding to avoid limiting the options that town leadership can take to address the problem.</p> <p>B. N/A for the resolution.</p> <p>C. The whole town would benefit from better waste management and resolving the rat crisis. It would help avoid other infestations and keep our town clean.</p> <p>D. The arguments for have previously been stated.</p> <p>E. Research included in the RCAP and a previous discussion between petitioners and members of DPH and the Department of Parks and Open Spaces.</p> <p>F. To leave the warrant article as filed, but that would not be a constructive option.</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 as it is a resolution calling attention to the need for improved waste management and encouraging a multi-pronged approach to the rat crisis. Although it could lead to a delay in spending for other programs and items.</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>No funding is needed for the amended resolution.</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 can serve as a “checklist of priorities” for Town administration to address the rat crisis. No impact on staffing will occur as a result of this resolution.</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>Town leadership, employees, elected local officials such as Town Meeting Members, and all people living/visiting Brookline.</p>
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. The resolution was discussed with various parties through hearings and via email. The ACPH and Parks and Rec Commission voted favorable action unanimously.</p> <p>B. All relevant committees and boards to inform the change of the warrant article to a resolution.</p>

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10	Prior Articles: 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	No (Continue on next page)
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Fall 2021

	Question	Responses (Enter N/A for “Not Applicable”)
	<p>outcome was?</p> <p>b. How does the proposed article differ from ones that were previously considered?</p> <p>c. Is there new information or are there new circumstances to support raising an issue that was previously considered by Town Meeting?</p>	
11	Anything else you would like the subcommittee to know?	The resolution acknowledges all the work done by Town Departments and the Town Administrator to develop a unified plan and invest in initial steps to address the crisis. Our resolution reflects an appreciation for the RCAP while identifying priorities for fiscal 2024 budget planning and summarizing expectations for everyone in Brookline.