



TOWN OF BROOKLINE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

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Sigalle Reiss, MPH, RS/REHS
Director of Public Health
& Human Services

MEMORANDUM

To: Select Board
Advisory Committee

From: Sigalle Reiss, Director of Public Health & Human Services

Date: October 24, 2022

Re: Fall 2022 Town Meeting Warrant Article 3, Special Town Meeting 2 – A Resolution to urge that the Town of Brookline Devote More Resources to Trash Management and Rodent Control

CC: Charles Carey, Town Administrator
Erin Chute Gallentine, Commissioner of Public Works

On October 19th the Advisory Council on Public Health held a public hearing¹ on Warrant Article 3 of the Special Town Meeting 2. After hearing from the petitioner and an update on the Rodent Action Plan² approved by the Select Board, the ACPH voted unanimously in favor of the warrant article as amended to a resolution.

The Public Health and Human Services Department (“Health Department”) is committed to implementation of the short and mid-term actions funded and approved by the Select Board and working with town leadership on FY24 planning. As mentioned in the Rodent Action Plan the Health Department plans to:

- Immediately engage the services of a pest control specialist who will use “smart” traps and technology to identify rodent hot spots while bringing the population down;
- Concurrently engage the services of a food safety consultant who will both identify best practices for enforcement of solid waste regulations (i.e., ensuring restaurants maintain sanitary outdoor dining setups) and help enforce those regulations;
- Bring online a dedicated one-stop public website for rodent resources and reporting by November 15, 2022;
- Conduct community outreach and distribute literature such as door-hangers in hot spot areas to reinforce best residential and commercial practices; and
- Continue to collaborate with our municipal partners on the Rodent Task Force.

I want to thank the Select Board for their support and approval of the Rodent Action Plan to address the unprecedented increase in rodent complaints.

¹ <https://www.brooklinema.gov/653/Advisory-Council-on-Public-Health>

² <https://www.brooklinema.gov/DocumentCenter/View/36006/20221012-Rodent-Control-Action-Plan-Recommendation-Memorandum>