

**COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
TOWN OF GRAFTON
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING WARRANT
June 20, 2020
9:30 A.M.**

Worcester, SS.

To Any of the Constables of the Town of Grafton, in the County of Worcester

GREETINGS:

In the name of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, you are directed to notify and warn the inhabitants of the Town of Grafton, qualified to vote in elections and Town affairs, to meet on/in the Grafton High School Football Field/Gymnasium at the Grafton High School on Saturday, the 20th Day of June, 2020

(rain date Sunday, the 21st Day of June, 2020) at Nine Thirty AM (9:30AM) and act on the following articles, to wit:

ARTICLE 1. HEAR REPORTS OF OFFICES, BOARDS AND COMMITTEES

To hear the reports of the several Town Officers, Boards and Committees, or to take any other action relative thereto.

Submitted by: Town Administrator

ARTICLE 1. HEAR REPORTS OF OFFICES, BOARDS AND COMMITTEES

Recommendation of the Finance Committee for Annual Town Meeting Warrant Article 1.

Finance Committee recommends acceptance of the printed annual reports. At the time of printing this document, there were no other scheduled reports planned to be read at Town Meeting.

ARTICLE 2. APPOINT TRUSTEE OF NELSON PARK AND MEMORIAL

To see if the Town will vote to appoint a Trustee of the Nelson Park and Memorial Library and Building Fund for a term of three years, or to take any other action relative thereto.

Submitted by: Nelson Park and Memorial Trustees

ARTICLE 2. APPOINT TRUSTEE OF NELSON PARK AND MEMORIAL

Recommendation of the Finance Committee for Annual Town Meeting Warrant Article 2.

Finance Committee recommends passage of Article 2.

Finance Committee concurs with the appointment of Bridget Webber as Trustee of the Nelson Park and Memorial Library and Building Fund.

ARTICLE 3. TOWN'S SHARE OF NET OPERATING COSTS – BLACKSTONE VALLEY VOCATIONAL REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate a sum of money, for the purpose of paying the Town's share of the net operating costs of the Blackstone Valley Vocational Regional School District (the "District") for the Fiscal Year commencing July 1, 2020, or take any other action relative thereto.

Submitted by: Blackstone Valley Vocational Regional School District Committee

ARTICLE 3. TOWN’S SHARE OF NET OPERATING COSTS – BLACKSTONE VALLEY VOCATIONAL REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT continued

ARTICLE 3. TOWN’S SHARE OF NET OPERATING COSTS – BLACKSTONE VALLEY VOCATIONAL REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Recommendation of the Finance Committee for Annual Town Meeting Warrant Article 3.

Finance Committee recommends passage of Article 3 as written in the amount of **\$814,270.00**. This article provides the Town’s share of the net operating cost of the Blackstone Valley Regional School District for FY21 and reflects an increase in enrollment of Grafton students.

ARTICLE 4. BLACKSTONE VALLEY VOCATIONAL SCHOOL – PRINCIPAL AND INTEREST

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate a sum of money to fund the principal and interest costs for FY21 to be incurred by the Blackstone Valley Vocational Regional School District for its capital expansion project, or take any other action relative thereto.

Submitted by: Blackstone Valley Vocational Regional School District Committee

ARTICLE 4. BLACKSTONE VALLEY VOCATIONAL SCHOOL – PRINCIPAL AND INTEREST

Recommendation of the Finance Committee for Annual Town Meeting Warrant Article 4.

Finance Committee recommends passage of Article 4 as written in the amount of **\$48,227.00**. This appropriation will fund the principal and interest cost for FY21 to be incurred by Blackstone Valley Regional School District for its capital expansion project.

ARTICLE 5. FY21 BUDGETS

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, and/or transfer from available funds in the Treasury, a sum of money to fund the recommended budget by the Town Administrator as shown in the Finance Committee’s printed report for the several Town Departments for the Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2020, or take any other action relative thereto.

Submitted by: Town Administrator

ARTICLE 5. FY21 BUDGETS

Recommendation of the Finance Committee for Annual Town Meeting Warrant Article 5.

Finance Committee agrees in principle with the FY21 Operating Budget in the amount of \$67,615,329.00 which is balanced with our anticipated revenues and does not use funding from Stabilization. This budget was agreed upon with the Town Administrator and Superintendent of Schools at the June 06, 2020 Finance Committee public meeting. Due to the current circumstances, minor changes are expected in the budget before town meeting. Finance Committee will provide its final recommendations at the June 20, 2020 Annual Town Meeting.

NOTES

ARTICLE 6. FY21 CONTIGENT BUDGETS

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate from available funds in the Treasury a sum of money to fund the Town Annual Operating Budget contingent upon the successful passage of Proposition 2 ½ Override for the Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2020, or to take any other action relative thereto.

Submitted by: Town Administrator

ARTICLE 6. FY21 CONTIGENT BUDGETS

Recommendation of the Finance Committee for Annual Town Meeting Warrant Article 6.

Finance Committee recommends passage of Article 6 in the amount of \$909,121.00

This article funds the FY21 Operating Contingent Budget upon the successful passage of a 2 ½ Override for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2020.

ARTICLE 7. FY21 GRAFTON CABLE TELEVISION BUDGET

To see if the Town will vote appropriate a sum of money to fund the recommended Grafton Community Television budget as recommended by the Cable Oversight Committee for the Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2020, or take any other action relative thereto.

Submitted by: Grafton Cable Oversight Committee

ARTICLE 7. FY21 GRAFTON CABLE TELEVISION BUDGET

Recommendation of the Finance Committee for Annual Town Meeting Warrant Article 7.

Finance Committee recommends passage of Article 7 as written in the amount of \$320,000.00.

In May 2016, Town Meeting voted to accept Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 44, Section 53F¾, which established a special revenue fund known as the PEG (Public, Educational, and Government) Access and Cable Related Fund, into which a small fee on all cable subscribers' bills is collected. This article appropriates the Grafton Community Television budget out of this fund, requiring no tax money.

ARTICLE 8. FUND FY21 CAPITAL EXPENDITURE BUDGET

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate a sum of money from free cash, and transfer a sum of money from available sources, for the purposes of funding the FY21 Capital Expenditure Budget said sum to be spent under the direction of the Select Board and Town Administrator, or take any other action relative thereto.

Submitted by: Town Administrator

ARTICLE 8. FUND FY21 CAPITAL EXPENDITURE BUDGET

Recommendation of the Finance Committee for Annual Town Meeting Warrant Article 8.

Finance Committee recommends passage of Article 8 in the amount of \$1,125,470.00.

This article transfers a sum of \$794,171.00 from Free Cash, and a sum of \$331,299.00 from retired warrant articles to fund the list of capital improvements and three leases for FY21 as recommended by the Town Administrator. The list of capital items was not reviewed by the Capital Improvement Committee and was reviewed by the Finance Committee.

NOTES

ARTICLE 9. TRANSPORTATION BOND BILL

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate a sum of money for State-Aid Highway purposes, as requested by the Select Board, to be reimbursed by the Commonwealth under the provisions of the Transportation Bond Bill, so-called, and amendments thereto, for roadway construction, reconstruction and improvements, including surface treatments and other work incidental to the above, or take any other action relative thereto.

Submitted by: Town Administrator

ARTICLE 9. TRANSPORTATION BOND BILL

Recommendation of the Finance Committee for Annual Town Meeting Warrant Article 9. Finance Committee recommends passage of Article 9 in the amount of **\$498,500.00**.

This article allows the Town to receive Chapter 90 funds as a reimbursement for projects accepted by the provisions of the Transportation Bond Bill. The spending of these funds is under the direction of the Select Board.

ARTICLE 10. AUTHORIZE BOARD TO ACCEPT & ENTER INTO CONTRACTS

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to accept and enter into contracts for the expenditure of any funds allotted by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts for construction, reconstruction, or improvements to public roads, or take any other action relative thereto.

Submitted by: Town Administrator

ARTICLE 10. AUTHORIZE BOARD TO ACCEPT & ENTER INTO CONTRACTS

Recommendation of the Finance Committee for Annual Town Meeting Warrant Article 10. Finance Committee recommends passage of Article 10 as written.

This article allows the Select Board to conduct routine Town business.

ARTICLE 11. AUTHORIZE SPENDING LIMITS FOR REVOLVING ACCOUNTS

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the total expenditures for the following revolving funds pursuant to G.L. c. 44 Section 53E ½ for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2020, to be expended in accordance with the bylaws heretofore approved:

Board/Department/Officer authorized to expend:	Revenue Source	Funds may be expended only for:	FISCAL YEARS
Town Administrator	Rent and Utilities \$200,000	One Grafton Common maintenance	Fiscal Year 2021 and subsequent years
School Department	State and Federal Grants \$10,000	Staff Development Workshops	Fiscal Year 2021 and subsequent years
School Department	Tuition Payments \$200,000	Early Childhood Programs	Fiscal Year 2021 and subsequent years
School Department	Out of district fees \$200,000	Out of district transportation	Fiscal Year 2021 and subsequent years
School Department	Sale of Surplus \$200,000	Education Tablets & Laptops	Fiscal Year 2021 and subsequent years

School Department	Rental Revolving Fund \$50,000	Maintenance of school facilities	Fiscal Year 2021 and subsequent years
School Department	Extended Services Revolving Fund \$50,000	Programs outside of the school day or year	Fiscal Year 2021 and subsequent years
Council on Aging	Ridership fees \$35,000	Elder Bus Transportation	Fiscal Year 2021 and subsequent years
Conservation Commission	Filing Fees \$25,000	Expenses related to duties	Fiscal Year 2021 and subsequent years
Fire Department	Inspection Fees \$10,000	Fire Sprinkler System Review	Fiscal Year 2021 and subsequent years
Board of Health	Medicare Part 855B \$20,000	Vaccine Administration	Fiscal Year 2021 and subsequent years
Board of Health	Community Nursing Gift Account \$5,000	CPR and Sharps Containers	Fiscal Year 2021 and subsequent years
Board of Health	Tufts Biomedical Inspections \$10,000	Inspections at Tufts University	Fiscal Year 2021 and subsequent years
Board of Health	Septic Plan Review \$20,000	Central MA Regional Health Alliance Septic Plan Review	Fiscal Year 2021 and subsequent years
Board of Health	Soil Testing \$20,000	Central MA Regional Health Alliance Soil Testing	Fiscal Year 2021 and subsequent years
Board of Health	Well Review \$5,000	Central MA Regional Health Alliance Well Review	Fiscal Year 2021 and subsequent years
South Grafton Community House	Rental fees \$20,000	Maintenance and upkeep	Fiscal Year 2021 and subsequent years
Library	Lost Book fees \$5,000	Replacement of materials	Fiscal Year 2021 and subsequent years
Council on Aging	Program Fees \$35,000	Program Funding	Fiscal Year 2021 and subsequent years
Conservation Commission	Storm Water Bylaw \$10,000	Expenses for Administration	Fiscal Year 2021 and subsequent years
Library	User fees \$10,000	Replenishing materials	Fiscal Year 2021 and subsequent years

ARTICLE 11. AUTHORIZE SPENDING LIMITS FOR REVOLVING ACCOUNTS continued

or take any other action relative thereto.

Submitted by: Town Administrator

ARTICLE 11. AUTHORIZE SPENDING LIMITS FOR REVOLVING ACCOUNTS

Recommendation of the Finance Committee for Annual Town Meeting Warrant Article 11.

Finance Committee recommends passage of Article 11 as written.

This is an annual reauthorization of revolving accounts with the listing of spending limits.

ARTICLE 12. RECREATION DEPARTMENT REVOLVING ACCOUNT

To see if the Town will vote to amend Article 40 of the General By Laws to include the Recreation Department Revolving Account, with a revenue source of all fees received for Recreation Department programs and activities, to be expended at the direction of the Town Administrator for the purposes of funding Recreation Department operations for the fiscal year commencing July 1, 2020 and subsequent years, or take any other action relative thereto.

Submitted by: Town Administrator

ARTICLE 12. RECREATION DEPARTMENT REVOLVING ACCOUNT

Recommendation of the Finance Committee for Annual Town Meeting Warrant Article 12.

Finance Committee recommends passage of Article 12 as written.

This article adds the Recreation Department Revolving Account to the list of authorized revolving accounts including spending limits to the Town's list of revolving accounts.

ARTICLE 13. FIRE DEPARTMENT INSURANCE SUPPLEMENT

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate and/or transfer from available funds a sum of money for the purposes of funding the Fire Department Insurance Supplement established under Article 15 of the March 16, 1987, Special Town Meeting, which is used for the purposes of paying not more than 75.00% of a firefighter's gross pay in case of injury while on duty as specified in Article 15 of the March 16, 1987, Special Town Meeting, or take any other action relative thereto.

Submitted by: Town Administrator

ARTICLE 13. FIRE DEPARTMENT INSURANCE SUPPLEMENT

Recommendations of the Finance Committee for Annual Town Meeting Warrant Article 13.

Finance Committee supports passing over Article 13.

Finance Committee understands that this article will be passed over at Town Meeting.

ARTICLE 14. AUTHORIZE TREASURER/COLLECTOR TO BORROW MONEY

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Treasurer/Collector, with the approval of the Select Board, to borrow money from time to time in anticipation of revenue of the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2020, in accordance with the provisions of the Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 44, Section 4, and amendments thereto, and to issue a note or notes as may be given for a period of less than one year in accordance with Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 44, Section 17, and amendments thereto, or take any other action relative thereto.

Submitted by: Town Administrator

ARTICLE 14. AUTHORIZE TREASURER/COLLECTOR TO BORROW MONEY continued

ARTICLE 14. AUTHORIZE TREASURER/COLLECTOR TO BORROW MONEY

Recommendation of the Finance Committee for Annual Town Meeting Warrant Article 14.

Finance Committee recommends passage of Article 14 as written.

This article allows the Treasurer/Collector to conduct routine Town business.

ARTICLE 15. UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$50,000, said sum to be added to the Unemployment Compensation Account, for the purposes of paying Unemployment Compensation expenses of the Town, or take any other action relative thereto.

Submitted by: Town Administrator

ARTICLE 15. UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION

Recommendation of the Finance Committee for Annual Town Meeting Warrant Article 15.

Finance Committee recommends passage of Article 15 in the amount of \$50,000.00.

Grafton is a self-funded unemployment operation which requires the Town to fund the account on a yearly basis to account for any potential claims against the Town. Each year, approximately \$50,000.00 is transferred in unless there are extenuating circumstances. For FY21, \$50,000.00 will be raised from the levy and placed in the account.

ARTICLE 16. FUNDING FOR TRANSPORTATION SERVICES FROM WRTA

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to request the funding of transportation services from the WRTA, and to contract for and provide elderly bus services for the Town of Grafton for the period of July 1, 2020, through June 30, 2021, or take any other action relative thereto.

Submitted by: Town Administrator

ARTICLE 16. FUNDING FOR TRANSPORTATION SERVICES FROM WRTA

Recommendation of the Finance Committee for Annual Town Meeting Warrant Article 16.

Finance Committee recommends passage of Article 16 as written.

This article is an annual authorization necessary to request WRTA funding of transportation services.

ARTICLE 17. FUNDING FOR POLICE DEPARTMENT EQUIPMENT

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate a sum of money from available sources for the purpose of funding Police Department mobile radio replacements, mobile data terminals, and tasers, or take any other action relative thereto.

Submitted by: Town Administrator

ARTICLE 17. FUNDING FOR POLICE DEPARTMENT EQUIPMENT

Recommendation of the Finance Committee for Annual Town Meeting Warrant Article 17.

Finance Committee opposes passage of Article 17.

If these funds are not provided via the Article 6 FY21 Contingency Budget and Override Vote on June 23, 2020, then the funds can be requested and allocated at a future Town Meeting. This prevents the funds from being appropriated twice.

ARTICLE 18. FUNDING FOR FIRE DEPARTMENT EQUIPMENT

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate a sum of money from available sources for the purpose of funding Fire Department equipment including a Hurst Strong Arm Rescue Tool, Riple Jaw Edraulics Tools, Turnout Gear, Boots, pagers and a thermal imager, or take any other action relative thereto.

Submitted by: Town Administrator

ARTICLE 18. FUNDING FOR FIRE DEPARTMENT EQUIPMENT

Recommendation of the Finance Committee for Annual Town Meeting Warrant Article 18.

Finance Committee opposes passage of Article 18.

If these funds are not provided via the Article 6 FY21 Contingency Budget and Override Vote on June 23, 2020 then the funds can be requested and allocated at a future Town Meeting. This prevents the funds from being appropriated twice.

ARTICLE 19. DISPOSAL OF PROPERTY AT 27 UPTON STREET

To see if the Town will vote to allow the Select Board to dispose of the property at 27 Upton Street, known as the DPW Garage, pursuant to MGL Ch. 30B, under such terms and conditions as it deems to be in the best interests of the Town, or take any other action relative thereto.

Submitted by: Town Administrator

ARTICLE 19. DISPOSAL OF PROPERTY AT 27 UPTON STREET

Recommendation of the Finance Committee for Annual Town Meeting Warrant Article 19.

Finance Committee recommends passage of Article 19 as written.

This article allows the Select Board to oversee the sale of the former DPW Garage property.

ARTICLE 20. PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE GRAFTON ZONING BYLAW

To see if the Town will vote to amend Section 12 of the Grafton Zoning Bylaws and the corresponding Use Regulation Schedule to include new language for a "Grafton Gateway", or take any other action relative thereto.

Submitted by: Town Administrator

ARTICLE 20. PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE GRAFTON ZONING BYLAW

Recommendation of the Finance Committee for Annual Town Meeting Warrant Article 20.

Finance Committee recommends passage of Article 20 as written.

This article allows the Zoning Bylaws to be amended to provide a better opportunity for the sale of the former DPW Garage property. Passage of this article requires a two-thirds vote.

ARTICLE 21. ACCEPTANCE OF PROPERTY AT 93 NORTH STREET

To see if the Town will vote to accept approximately 17 acres of property located at 93 North Street for the purpose of passive recreation or preserving open space, as described in the deed, or take any other action relative thereto.

Submitted by: Town Administrator

ARTICLE 21. ACCEPTANCE OF PROPERTY AT 93 NORTH STREET
continued

ARTICLE 21. ACCEPTANCE OF PROPERTY AT 93 NORTH STREET

Recommendation of the Finance Committee for Annual Town Meeting Warrant Article 21.

Finance Committee recommends passage of Article 21 as written.

This article allows for the acceptance of the 17 acres of property gifted to the Town by the Virginia Engvall family to be used for passive recreational space.

ARTICLE 22. ACCEPTANCE OF PROPERTY AT LOTTIE DRIVE

To see if the Town will vote to accept real estate comprising a strip of "Lottie Drive" that the original developer had inadvertently conveyed to an original purchaser of a lot on Lottie Drive, or take any other action relative thereto.

Submitted by: Town Administrator

ARTICLE 22. ACCEPTANCE OF PROPERTY AT LOTTIE DRIVE

Recommendation of the Finance Committee for Annual Town Meeting Warrant Article 22.

Finance Committee recommends passage of Article 22 as written.

This article is a housekeeping article to correct a real estate property error on Lottie Drive.

ARTICLE 23. SALE OF SURPLUS PROPERTY

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board, pursuant to Article 4, Section 9, of the Town By-Laws, to sell surplus items under such terms and conditions as it deems to be in the best interests of the Town, or take any other action relative thereto.

Submitted by: Town Administrator

ARTICLE 23. SALE OF SURPLUS PROPERTY

Recommendation of the Finance Committee for Annual Town Meeting Warrant Article 23.

Finance Committee supports passing over of Article 23.

This article will be passed over at Town Meeting since there are no surplus items to sell at this time.

ARTICLE 24. CPC – RESERVES

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate or reserve from the Community Preservation Fund annual revenues in the amounts recommended by the Community Preservation Committee for its administrative expenses, community preservation projects, and other expenses in fiscal year 2021, with each item to be considered a separate appropriation:

Appropriations:

From FY2021 estimated revenues for Community Administrative Expenses	\$24,000
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Reserves:

From FY2021 estimated revenues for Historic Resources Reserve	\$60,701
From FY2021 estimated revenues for Affordable Housing Reserve	\$60,701
From FY2021 estimated revenues for Open Space Reserve	\$60,701
From FY2021 estimated revenues for Budgeted Reserve	\$400,905

or take any other action relative thereto.

Submitted by: Community Preservation Committee

ARTICLE 24. CPC – RESERVES continued

ARTICLE 24. CPC – RESERVES

Recommendation of the Finance Committee for Annual Town Meeting Warrant Article 24.

Finance Committee recommends passage of Article 24 as written.

This article is a required transfer of estimated funds from Community Preservation Committee (CPC) revenues into an Operating Budget Account and for the various Reserve Accounts. This is necessary for the CPC to conduct business in FY21.

ARTICLE 25. CPC – PELL FARM BOND PAYMENT

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the sum of Seventy Three Thousand One Hundred and Fifty Dollars (\$73,150) from the Fiscal Year 2021 Community Preservation Open Space Reserve Account for the purpose of making the twelfth of twenty (12th of 20) interest and principal payments on the \$1.2 million bond issued for the purchase of the Pell Farm property, or take any other action relative thereto.

Submitted by: Community Preservation Committee

ARTICLE 25. CPC – PELL FARM BOND PAYMENT

Recommendation of the Finance Committee for Annual Town Meeting Warrant Article 25.

Finance Committee recommends passage of Article 18 as written in the amount of \$79,950.00.

This article authorizes the CPC to make the FY21 principal and interest payment on the \$1.2 million bond issued for the purchase of the Pell Farm Property.

ARTICLE 26. CPC – GRAFTON TOWN HOUSE BOND PAYMENT

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the sum of Seventy One Thousand Five Hundred and Fifty Dollars (\$71,550) from the Fiscal Year 2021 Community Preservation Historical Reserve account, for the purpose of making the sixth of twenty (6th of 20) interest and principal payments on the \$1.1 million bond issued for the restoration of the Grafton Town House, or take any other action relative thereto.

Submitted by: Community Preservation Committee

ARTICLE 26. CPC – GRAFTON TOWN HOUSE BOND PAYMENT

Recommendation of the Finance Committee for Annual Town Meeting Warrant Article 26.

Finance Committee recommends passage of Article 19 as written in the amount of \$72,450.00.

This article authorizes the CPC to make the FY21 principal and interest payment on the \$1.1 million bond issued for the renovation of the Grafton Town House.

ARTICLE 27. CPC – INSTITUTE WOODS RECREATION TRAIL FEASIBILITY STUDY

To see if the Town will vote to extend the sunset provision, set to expire on June 30, 2020, for the previously approved fourteen thousand dollars (\$14,000) in Community Preservation Act funds to determine if a recreation trail can be developed from the North Grafton Elementary School to Institute Road, with such funds as previously authorized to be expended before June 30, 2022, or take any other action relative thereto.

Submitted by: Community Preservation Committee

ARTICLE 27. CPC – INSTITUTE WOODS RECREATION TRAIL FEASIBILITY STUDY

Recommendation of the Finance Committee for Annual Town Meeting Warrant Article 27.

Finance Committee recommends passage of Article 27 as written.

This article extends the sunset provision for this project to June 30, 2022.

ARTICLE 28. CPC – TOWN RECORDS RESTORATION PROJECT

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the sum of Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000) from the Community Preservation Historical Reserve account for the restoration of historic town records, with such funds to be expended by June 30, 2024, or take any other action relative thereto.

Submitted by: Community Preservation Committee

ARTICLE 28. CPC – TOWN RECORDS RESTORATION PROJECT

Recommendation of the Finance Committee for Annual Town Meeting Warrant Article 28.

Finance Committee recommends passage of Article 28 as written in the amount of \$5,000.00.

This article provides funds for the ongoing restoration of historic records accomplished by the Town Clerk's office.

ARTICLE 29.CPC –LIONS CLUB PROPERTY RECREATIONAL IMPROVEMENTS

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the sum of One Hundred and Forty Thousand Dollars (\$140,000) from the Community Preservation Act Undesignated Fund Balance account for design and engineering work to determine costs for recreational upgrades at Grafton Lions Club Dauphinais Park, with such funds to be expended by June 30, 2022, or take any other action relative thereto.

Submitted by: Community Preservation Committee

ARTICLE 29. CPC – LIONS CLUB PROPERTY RECREATIONAL IMPROVEMENTS

Recommendation of the Finance Committee for Annual Town Meeting Warrant Article 29.

Finance Committee recommends passage of this article in the amount of \$140,000.00.

These funds will be used to pave the driveway and parking lot at the Grafton Lions Club. This is the second phase of a project initiated with CPC funding in 2019.

ARTICLE 30. CITIZENS PETITION – REACCLOCATION OF FUNDS ORIGINALLY VOTED FOR THE SO-CALLED SUPER PARK

To see if the Town will vote to rescind the vote taken under Article 5 of the October 19, 2015 Town Meeting that appropriated funds from Overlay Surplus for the creation of a play structure and surrounding park facility at the Perrault Property (4-6 Upton Street) and transfer the remaining funds (\$241,000) to the Capital Stabilization Fund for re-appropriation by the Town Meeting to fund a portion of the Fiscal Year 2021 Capital Budget as proposed by the Town Administrator, or to take any other action relative thereto.

Submitted by: Citizens Petition

ARTICLE 30. CITIZENS PETITION – REACCLOCATION OF FUNDS ORIGINALLY VOTED FOR THE SO-CALLED SUPER PARK

Recommendation of the Finance Committee for Annual Town Meeting Warrant Article 30.

Finance Committee supports passing over Article 30.

Finance Committee understands that this article will be passed over at Town Meeting.

Notes _____

ARTICLE 31. CITIZENS PETITION – REALLOCATION OF FUNDS
ORIGINALLY VOTED FOR THE SO-CALLED SUPER PARK

To see if the Town will vote to rescind the vote taken under Article 5 of the October 19, 2015 Town Meeting that appropriated funds from Overlay Surplus for the creation of a play structure and surrounding park facility at the Perrault Property (4-6 Upton Street) and transfer the remaining funds (\$241,000) to the Municipal Capital Stabilization (account 84.131.626.4971), or to take any other action relative thereto.

Submitted by: Citizens Petition

ARTICLE 31. CITIZENS PETITION – REALLOCATION OF FUNDS ORIGINALLY VOTED FOR THE SO-CALLED SUPER PARK

Recommendation of the Finance Committee for Annual Town Meeting Warrant Article 31.
Finance Committee recommends passage of Article 31.

This article allows for funds to be reallocated to the Municipal Capital Stabilization account to be applied to Grafton’s backlog of Capital needs. Given the financial uncertainty due to Covid-19, transferring these funds provides some security our capital projects will have \$241,000.00 available to be used in future fiscal years.

ARTICLE 32. CITIZENS PETITION – DISTRIBUTION OF SUPER PARK
MONEY

To see if the Town will vote to direct the Recreation Commission to abandon their plan for the so-called Super Park proposed for the site to the rear of the center library and expend the funds to expand and improve the parks known as Nelson Park, Norcross Park, and Ferry Street.

Submitted by: Citizens Petition

ARTICLE 32. CITIZENS PETITION – DISTRIBUTION OF SUPER PARK MONEY

Recommendation of the Finance Committee for Annual Town Meeting Warrant Article 32.
Finance Committee opposes passage of Article 32 as written.

This article does not specify which funds should be expended to expand and improve the parks known as Nelson Park, Norcross Park, and Ferry Street.

ARTICLE 33. CPC – SUPERPARK

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate \$250,000 from FY2021 Budgeted Reserve to complete Phase I of the Super Park project, with such funds to be expended by June 30, 2022, or take any other action relative thereto.

Submitted by: Community Preservation Committee

ARTICLE 33. CPC – SUPERPARK

Recommendation of the Finance Committee for Annual Town Meeting Warrant Article 33.
Finance Committee opposes passage of Article 33.

Finance Committee has several concerns. The scope and price of the project have increased significantly beyond the original plans from 2015. There are many other parks and playgrounds in Town that must be brought into ADA compliance and maintained regardless of whether this project goes forward. This is not the time to be investing in such a large project with unknown maintenance costs and passage of this article will constrict the ability of CPC to address other needs.

ARTICLE 34. CPC – SUPERPARK BORROWING

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate and borrow, with the authorization of the Town Treasurer and under the control of the Select Board, \$700,000, over ten years, to complete Phase I of the Super Park project, or take any other action relative thereto.

Submitted by: Community Preservation Committee

ARTICLE 34. CPC – SUPERPARK BORROWING

Recommendation of the Finance Committee for Annual Town Meeting Warrant Article 34.

Finance Committee opposes passage of Article 34.

In addition to the reasons listed for opposing Article 33, this article would tie up a significant portion of the CPC's bonding capacity, potentially limiting the Town's ability to use CPC funds for another large project, such as a time-sensitive land acquisition, for the next eight years.

ARTICLE 35. CEMETERY PERPETUAL CARE FUNDS

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate a sum of money from the Cemetery Perpetual Care Accounts as detailed in the chart, for the purpose of funding cemetery operations:

Account Number	Amount	Purpose
Riverside: 84.491.552.1	\$12,000	Brush Mower & Operations
Fairview: 84.491.553.1	\$12,000	Brush Mower & Operations
Pinegrove: 84.491.554.1	\$12,000	Brush Mower & Operations

or take any other action relative thereto.

Submitted by: Town Administrator

ARTICLE 35. CEMETERY PERPETUAL CARE FUNDS

Recommendation of the Finance Committee for Annual Town Meeting Warrant Article 35.

Finance Committee recommends passage of Article 35 as written.

This article transfers \$24,000.00 from the Cemetery Perpetual Care Accounts to the FY21 Operating Cemetery and Parks Expense Budget to purchase a Brush Mower that will be used to maintain multiple areas of the Town. Purchasing this equipment negates hiring a Contracted Service providing a savings to the Town.

ARTICLE 36. FIRE HYDRANTS– GRAFTON WATER DISTRICT

To see if the Town will vote to accept the following hydrants from the Grafton Water District:

- #697 4 Hitchings Road
- #698 4 Logan Road
- #699 14 Logan Road
- #700 15 Hilltop Street
- #701 34 Kay Circle

or take any other action relative thereto.

Submitted by: Town Administrator

ARTICLE 36. FIRE HYDRANTS– GRAFTON WATER DISTRICT

Recommendation of the Finance Committee for Annual Town Meeting Warrant Article 36.

Finance Committee recommends passage of Article 36 as written.

This article provides acceptance of additional hydrants listed in this article to the Town's hydrants list from the Grafton Water District.

ARTICLE 37. FIRE HYDRANTS – SOUTH GRAFTON WATER DISTRICT

To see if the Town will vote to accept the following hydrants from the South Grafton Water District:

- #122 Deroiser Landing
or take any other action relative thereto.

Submitted by: Town Administrator

ARTICLE 37. FIRE HYDRANTS – SOUTH GRAFTON WATER DISTRICT

Recommendation of the Finance Committee for Annual Town Meeting Warrant Article 37.

Finance Committee recommends passage of Article 37 as written.

This article provides acceptance of an additional hydrant to the Town's hydrants list from the South Grafton Water District.

ARTICLE 38. CITIZEN'S PETITION – SCHEDULING TOWN MEETING

To see if the Town will vote to schedule the Annual Town Meetings to Saturdays, rather than weeknights, starting with Saturday, October 3, 2020, or take any other action relative thereto.

Submitted by: Citizen's Petition

ARTICLE 38. CITIZEN'S PETITION – SCHEDULING TOWN MEETING

Recommendation of the Finance Committee for Annual Town Meeting Warrant Article 38.

Finance Committee opposes passage of Article 38 as written.

The scheduling of Town Meeting is set in the Town Bylaws and it would require a change to the Bylaws to change the scheduling.

ARTICLE 39. CITIZEN'S PETITION – LIMITATION ON NUMBER OF RECREATIONAL MARIJUANA RETAIL ESTABLISHMENTS

To see if the Town will amend Article 39 of the General Bylaws to limit the number of recreational marijuana retail establishments as follows:

ARTICLE 39.

LIMITATION ON NUMBER OF RECREATIONAL MARIJUANA RETAIL ESTABLISHMENTS

Section 1. Purpose

M.G.L. c. 94G does not require a ballot vote of the voters to approve any limitation on the number of recreational marijuana establishments that is at or above the number of medical marijuana treatment centers registered to operate in the municipality, or equal to or greater than 20% of the licenses issued for the retail sale of alcoholic beverages not to be drunk on the premises. Currently there is one (1) medical marijuana treatment center registered to operate in Grafton, and six (6) licenses issued for the retail sale of alcoholic beverages not to be drunk on the premises in Grafton.

Section 2. Limitation

The number of Recreational Marijuana Retailers (RMR's) that shall be permitted in Grafton is limited to ~~20%~~ 50% of the number of licenses issued within the Town under section 15 of chapter 138 for the retail sale of alcoholic beverages not to be drunk on the premises where sold. or take any other action relative thereto.

Submitted by: Citizen's Petition

ARTICLE 39. CITIZEN'S PETITION – LIMITATION ON NUMBER OF RECREATIONAL MARIJUANA RETAIL ESTABLISHMENTS continued

ARTICLE 39. CITIZEN'S PETITION – LIMITATION ON NUMBER OF RECREATIONAL MARIJUANA RETAIL ESTABLISHMENTS

Recommendation of the Finance Committee for Annual Town Meeting Warrant Article 39.

Finance Committee recommends passage of Article 39 as written.

It is keeping with the strategic direction of the Town to encourage commercial growth to allow more businesses in Town.

ARTICLE 40. CITIZEN'S PETITION – ROAD ACCEPTANCE

To see if the Town will vote to accept the road known as High Point Drive and associated easements, recorded in the Worcester County Registry of Deeds at Plan Book 850, Plan 64, or take any other action relative thereto.

Submitted by: Citizen's Petition

ARTICLE 40. CITIZEN'S PETITION – ROAD ACCEPTANCE

Recommendation of the Finance Committee for Annual Town Meeting Warrant Article 40.

Finance Committee recommends against passage of Article 40 as written.

There is current litigation involving this project and it is not prudent to accept this road at this time.

ARTICLE 41. CITIZEN'S PETITION – 25 WORCESTER STREET

To see if the Town will vote to convey 25 Worcester Street, Grafton, Massachusetts to the Grafton Affordable Housing Trust for nominal consideration for the purpose of constructing senior (age 55 and over) affordable housing or take any other action relative thereto.

Submitted by: Citizen's Petition

ARTICLE 41. CITIZEN'S PETITION – 25 WORCESTER STREET

Recommendation of the Finance Committee for Annual Town Meeting Warrant Article 41.

Finance Committee recommends passage of Article 41 as written.

This allows the Grafton Affordable Housing Trust to fulfill its mission. This parcel has been unused for many years, is well sited and accessible. Senior housing is a low impact use that will not detract from the neighborhood.

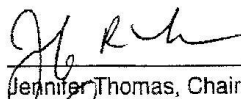
And you are directed to serve this Warrant by posting up an attested copy thereof in some conspicuous place in each of the precincts of the Town at least fourteen days before said meeting.

Hereof fail not and make due return of this Warrant, with your doings thereon to the Town Clerk, at the time and place of meeting as aforesaid.


Given under our hands this 22nd day of May in the year of our Lord Two Thousand Twenty.

SELECT BOARD


TOWN OF GRAFTON



Jennifer Thomas, Chairman



Doreen DeFazio, Vice Chairman



Peter Carlson, Clerk

Donna Stock

Edward Prisby

A TRUE COPY,
ATTEST:

May 22, 2020

I have complied with the requirements of the above Warrant and with the Town of Grafton By-Laws by posting an attest copy of the Warrant in some conspicuous place in each of the precincts of the town on the above date.



Constable of Grafton