



Annual Town Meeting

Warrant Article Explanations

June 2019

Article 1 - This is a placeholder article from previous Town Meetings. The town officers will be chosen at the Annual Election on June 11, 2019.

Article 2 - This is a standard article to allow any Town Officer, Board, Commission, or Committee to make a report on the floor of Town Meeting.

Article 3 - This article authorizes the Board of Selectmen to enter into agreements with the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Department of Transportation for the construction and maintenance of public highways for Fiscal Year 2020.

Article 4 - This article allows the town to accept educational grants and aid for Fiscal Year 2020, to be expended for authorized purposes by the Montachusett Regional Vocational Technical School and the Quabbin Regional School District.

Article 5 - This article authorizes the continuation of the Holden Hospital Account for Fiscal Year 2020. The Holden Hospital Account is funded by monies received from the establishment of a \$2,500,000 trust fund under a settlement between the Medical Center of Central Massachusetts (MCCM) and the eleven communities formerly served by Holden Hospital. Any purchases to be presented for payment from this account shall be authorized by the appropriate board, and shall only be used for rescue vehicle replacement assistance, fire department emergency medicine education and training or other health-based board of health programs and expenditures deemed to fall within the account's intentions.

Article 6 - This article amends the Hubbardston General Bylaws in order to change the purpose of the Board of Health Vaccine Revolving Fund to a general Board of Health Fund and eliminates the plumbing and gas revolving funds. The plumbing and gas revolving funds are no longer needed due to the regional agreement signed with Gardner.

Article 7 - This standard article establishes the Fiscal 2020 spending limit for the town's approved revolving accounts.

Article 8 - This article addresses the proposed operating budget for fiscal year 2020 for all departments of the town and the regional school districts. For more information about the proposed budget, please visit the [Annual Town Meeting Web site](#).

Article 9 - This article funds the town's Senior Tax Work-Off Program. The money for this article comes from Free Cash.

Article 10 - This article funds leaf and weed removal machinery for the town's cemeteries as requested by the Cemetery Commission. The money for this article comes from Free Cash.

Article 11 - This article appropriates \$1755 for the Hubbardston Preservation Fund. This revenue comes from the town's Hay License on the Mount Jefferson Recreation Area. This money is normally deposited into the Preservation Fund; however, in a prior year, a mistake was made. This article corrects the mistake by transferring money from Free Cash to the Preservation Fund.

Article 12 - This article appropriates money for revolving accounts that currently have negative balances. The money for this article comes from Free Cash.

Article 13 - This article funds the town's Fiscal Year 2020 Capital Plan as outlined in the Town Meeting Warrant. The money for these purchases comes from Free Cash and the town's Capital Stabilization Fund. An updated version of the town's five-year capital plan can be found at the [Annual Town Meeting Web site](#).

Article 14 - This article cleans up old capital accounts for projects that are completed and no longer need funding. The article closes these accounts and transfers the remaining funds into the town's General Stabilization Fund.

Article 15 - This article rescinds old borrowing authorizations. For each of these accounts, Town Meeting authorized a borrowing amount to complete the projects specified. The town did not need to borrow the full amount to fund the project, but due to state financial law, the town can still borrow these amounts since it was authorized by a Town Meeting. By rescinding these authorizations, the town can reduce its financial liabilities and potentially improve its bond rating by following financial best practices.

Article 16 - This article is required to address the allocations of funding available from the Community Preservation Act (CPA) surcharge. This article also provides for allocations of the historic, community housing and open space categories of the CPA.

Article 17 - This article takes balances no longer needed from previous CPA projects and returns them to the CPC for future use.

Article 18 - This article would appropriate \$21,200 from the CPA's Open Space Reserve in order to restore and rehabilitate the baseball fields at the Curtis Recreation Field to be compliant with Cal Ripken League regulations. There is no new tax impact for this project.

Article 19 - This article would appropriate \$2,618 from the CPA's Open Space Reserve in order to purchase a portable ice-skating rink for winter recreation. There is no new tax impact for this project.

Article 20 - This article would appropriate \$8,000 from the CPA's Community Preservation Historic Reserve in order to assess and repair a corner of the Hubbardston Public Library brick foundation. There is no new tax impact for this project.

Article 21 - This article would appropriate \$26,690 from the CPA's Community Preservation Historic Reserve in order to reimburse the First Parish Unitarian Church for the cost of repairing and replacing the historic building's roof. There is no new tax impact for this project.

Article 22 - This article would create a special purpose stabilization fund called the Municipal Road Repair and Maintenance Fund. Once revenues are placed into this fund, the money could only be used for road repair and maintenance pending a successful $\frac{2}{3}$ vote from an Annual or Special Town Meeting. To appropriate money into this special purpose stabilization fund, this article authorizes a proposition 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ override of \$350,000. This authorization would also require a majority of registered voters to approve ballot question number one at the Annual Town Election on June 11. For supplementary information about this article to include a list of roads suggested to supplement the town's current five-year-road plan, please visit the [Annual Town Meeting Web site](#). This requires a $\frac{2}{3}$ Town Meeting vote because it authorizes an override of proposition 2 $\frac{1}{2}$.

Article 23 - This article would amend the Town Bylaws and adopt the so-called stretch code. This building code, widely adopted throughout Massachusetts, would increase the energy efficiency of Hubbardston's building code in addition to making the town eligible for Green Community Grants. For more information about the adoption to include a presentation and information sheet, please visit the [Annual Town Meeting Web site](#).

Article 24 - This article would adopt a Massachusetts General Law allowing town officials to tax the retail sale of marijuana in town businesses.

Article 25 - This article would accept the Layout Plan of Streeter Road as on file in the Town Clerk's office and approved/recommended by the Board of Selectmen. This would make Streeter Road a public road. This requires a $\frac{2}{3}$ Town Meeting vote because it is the acceptance of a road as a public way.

Article 26 - This article would allow the Board of Selectmen to enter in a five-year contract with Lance Laine to hay the Mount Jefferson Recreation Area. Town bylaws require a Town Meeting vote for any contract more than 3 years in length.

Article 27 - This article would amend the Hubbardston Zoning Bylaws to make the associate planning board member appointed by the Planning Board. Currently the associate member is appointed by the Board of Selectmen. This article requires a $\frac{2}{3}$ vote from Town Meeting because it changes the Zoning Bylaws.

Article 28 - This article would amend the Hubbardston General Bylaws in accordance with changes proposed to the Zoning Bylaws in Article 27.

Article 29 - This article would amend the Hubbardston General Bylaws by adding a section of Massachusetts General Law that allows the Agricultural Commission to conduct research, receive gifts (to include land) and purchase/manage lands.

Article 30 - This article is a citizen's petition that would accept Streeter Road as a public way. This requires a $\frac{2}{3}$ Town Meeting vote because it is the acceptance of a road as a public way.

Article 31 - This article is citizen's petition that would authorize the Board of Selectmen to petition the General Court for the purposes of providing maintenance to private ways that are open to common usage.

Article 32 - This article would create a separate revenue fund for the Cable Advisory Committee. Guidance from the Massachusetts Department of Revenue indicates that towns must eliminate PEG Access Revolving Funds in favor of separate revenue fund or enterprise fund by July 1, 2019. This would then require that town meeting voters annually appropriate money from the special revenue fund to fund the Cable Advisory Committee fiscal-year budget. This article also transfers money from the current PEG Access revolving account to the new PEG access and Cable Related Fund.

Article 33 - This article would appropriate \$85,000 from the newly created PEG Access and Cable Related Fund (if approved in Article 32) for the purposes of funding Cable Advisory Committee activity in fiscal year 2020.