

**May 8, 2017  
ANNUAL TOWN ELECTION  
&  
May 9, 2017  
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING  
WARRANTS**



**TOWN WARRANT  
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS  
ANNUAL TOWN ELECTION  
MAY 8, 2017**

**Worcester SS.**

To a Constable of the Town of PRINCETON in the County of WORCESTER

**GREETING:**

In the name of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, you are hereby required to notify and warn the inhabitants of Princeton who are qualified to vote in elections and town affairs, to meet at:

**The Town Hall Annex  
4 Town Hall Drive**

on **MONDAY, THE EIGHTH DAY OF MAY 2017**, from 12:00 Noon to 8:00 P.M. for the following purpose:

To cast their votes in the Annual Town Election for the candidates for the following offices:

ONE Selectman for three years

ONE Assessor for three years

ONE Electric Light Commissioner for three years

ONE Trustee of Trust Funds for three years

TWO Planning Board members for three years

ONE Moderator for one year

ONE Princeton Broadband Municipal Light Plant member for one year

TWO Princeton Broadband Municipal Light Plant members for two years

TWO Princeton Broadband Municipal Light Plant members for three years

**POLLS WILL BE OPEN FROM TWELVE O'CLOCK P.M. TO EIGHT O'CLOCK P.M.**

You are further hereby directed to notify and warn the said inhabitants of the Town of Princeton to meet at the Thomas Prince School, in said Town on **TUESDAY, THE NINTH DAY of MAY 2017** at seven o'clock post meridian to act on the following articles of Town affairs:

*The Advisory Committee hearing on this warrant was held on Monday, April 24, 2017 at 5:00 p.m. in the Town Hall Annex.*

# **TOWN WARRANT COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS ANNUAL TOWN MEETING MAY 9, 2017**

**ARTICLE 1.** To hear the reports of the Town Officers and any outstanding committees and act thereon.

Advisory Committee Approves

**ARTICLE 2.** To see if the Town will vote under the provisions of Massachusetts General Law (M.G.L.), c. 41, §108, to fix the salaries of the following Town Officers for the ensuing year (FY18), or take any other action relative thereto.

	<u>FY17</u>	<u>FY18</u>
Moderator	\$ 25	\$ 25
Selectmen	\$3,600 (\$1,200 per member)	\$3,600 (\$1,200 per member)
Assessors	\$4,500 (\$1,500 per member)	\$ 0

*This article establishes the salaries of paid elected officials. The Board of Assessors plan to forego their stipends, as they have increased responsibilities for the Principal Assessor. The funds which were used to pay the Board of Assessors will be used to sustain the needs of the department (e.g. salaries and expenses).*

Advisory Committee Approves

**ARTICLE 3.** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, or transfer from available funds, a sum or sums of money to defray charges and expenses of the Town, including debt and interest, and to provide for a reserve fund for the ensuing fiscal year (FY18), or take any other action relative thereto.

*This article establishes the FY18 operating budget for town departments.*

DEPARTMENT	FY17 BUDGET VOTED	FY18 PROPOSED BUDGET	FY18 Sub-Total To Be Voted On	FY18 AC RECOMMENDS (IF DIFFERENT)
<b>GENERAL GOVERNMENT:</b>				
<b>Moderator</b>				
Salary	25.00	25.00		
Expense	75.00	75.00		
Sub-Total	100.00		100.00	
<b>Board of Selectmen</b>				
Salaries	3,600.00	3,600.00		
Expense	3,000.00	5,000.00		
Sub-Total	6,600.00		8,600.00	
<b>Town Administrator</b>				
Salary	95,000.00	95,000.00		
Expense	3,700.00	3,700.00		
Sub-Total	98,700.00		98,700.00	
<b>Reserve Fund</b>				
Expense	75,000.00	75,000.00	75,000.00	
<b>Town Accountant</b>				
Salary	35,770.05	48,467.70		
Annual Audit Expense	12,000.00	14,500.00		
Expense	12,141.00	11,960.00		
Sub-Total	59,911.05		74,927.70	
<b>Board of Assessors</b>				
Assessors Salaries	4,500.00	-		
Principal Assessor Salary	30,876.42	31,842.00		
Assessor Clerk Salary	22,032.00	22,032.00		
Expense	13,325.00	22,276.00		
Revaluation Salary	4,590.00			
Sub-Total	75,323.42		76,150.00	
<b>Treasurer/Tax Collector</b>				
Salary	78,438.00	77,979.20		
Certification		1,000.00		
Expense	21,170.00	18,420.00		
Sub-Total	99,608.00		97,399.20	
<b>Town Counsel</b>				
Expense	20,000.00	45,200.00	45,200.00	

DEPARTMENT	FY17 BUDGET VOTED	FY18 PROPOSED BUDGET	FY18 Sub-Total To Be Voted On	FY18 AC RECOMMENDS (IF DIFFERENT)
<b>Information Technology</b>				
Info. Tech. Mgr. Salary	14,218.80	16,218.80		
Info Tech Expense	3,757.00	9,222.00		
Sub-Total	17,975.80		25,440.80	
<b>Administrative Assistants</b>				
Salaries	46,826.00	37,000.00		
Expense	1,500.00	1,500.00		
Sub-Total	48,326.00		38,500.00	
<b>Town Clerk</b>				
Salary	37,750.60	37,750.60		
Certification	1,000.00	1,000.00		
Expenses	4,800.00	4,540.00		
Sub-Total	43,550.60		43,290.60	
<b>Elections &amp; Registration</b>				
Salaries	6,200.00	1,600.00		
Expense	5,650.00	2,650.00		
Sub-Total	11,850.00		4,250.00	
<b>Conservation Commission</b>				
Salaries				
Expense	1,000.00	1,000.00		
Sub-Total	1,000.00		1,000.00	
<b>Planning Board</b>				
Admin. Asst. Salary	19,329.00	19,329.00		
Expense	2,636.00	2,636.00		
Sub-Total	21,965.00		21,965.00	
<b>Board of Appeals</b>				
Expense	500.00	500.00	500.00	
<b>Open Space Committee</b>				
Expense	500.00	250.00	250.00	
<b>Agricultural Commission</b>				
Expense	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	

DEPARTMENT	FY17 BUDGET VOTED	FY18 PROPOSED BUDGET	FY18 Sub-Total To Be Voted On	FY18 AC RECOMMENDS (IF DIFFERENT)
<b>Town Building Operations</b>				
Salaries	68,895.48	<b>68,895.48</b>		
Expense	59,000.00	<b>58,630.00</b>		
Sub-Total	<b>127,895.48</b>		<b>127,525.48</b>	
<b>TOTAL GENERAL GOVMT.</b>	<b>709,805.35</b>		<b>739,798.78</b>	
<b>PUBLIC SAFETY:</b>				
<b>Police/Dispatch</b>				
Police non-union Salaries	156,062.50	<b>158,666.00</b>		
Police Union Salaries	438,666.00	<b>439,002.00</b>		
Dispatch	97,051.00	<b>73,196.00</b>		
Expense	103,200.00	<b>103,200.00</b>		
Sub-Total	<b>794,979.50</b>		<b>774,064.00</b>	
<b>Fire Department</b>				
Salaries	142,534.80	<b>150,384.00</b>		
Expense	123,974.00	<b>123,674.00</b>		
Ambulance Readiness	82,191.60	<b>84,656.00</b>		
Sub-Total	<b>348,700.40</b>		<b>358,714.00</b>	
<b>Animal Control</b>				
Animal Inspector Salary	500.00	<b>500.00</b>		
Expense	11,434.86	<b>9,107.00</b>		
Sub-Total	<b>11,934.86</b>		<b>9,607.00</b>	
<b>Emergency Response</b>				
Emergency Mgt. Exp.	3,060.00	<b>3,060.00</b>		
Emergency Notification Sys	<b>3,699.00</b>	<b>3,699.00</b>		
Sub-Total	<b>6,759.00</b>		<b>6,759.00</b>	
<b>Tree Warden</b>				
Salary	1,533.06	<b>1,533.06</b>		
Expense	12,000.00	<b>12,000.00</b>		
Sub-Total	<b>13,533.06</b>		<b>13,533.06</b>	
<b>TOTAL PUBLIC SAFETY:</b>	<b>1,175,906.82</b>		<b>1,162,677.06</b>	

DEPARTMENT	FY17 BUDGET VOTED	FY18 PROPOSED BUDGET	FY18 Sub-Total To Be Voted On	FY18 AC RECOMMENDS (IF DIFFERENT)
<b>SCHOOLS</b>				
<b>Wachusett Regional School</b>				
Wachusett Min. Contribution	3,456,367.00	3,456,189.00		
Operations Assessment	709,563.00	827,913.00		
Transportation	226,589.00	254,380.00		
Long Term Debt	177,139.00	174,357.00		
Sub-total	4,569,658.00		4,712,839.00	
Montachusett Reg. Vocational	313,077.00	277,757.00	277,757.00	
<b>TOTAL SCHOOLS</b>	4,882,735.00		4,990,596.00	
<b>PUBLIC WORKS:</b>				
<b>Highway</b>				
Salaries	351,439.52	354,070.40		
Expense	267,058.00	266,958.00		
Road Reconstruction	350,000.00	350,000.00		
Sub-Total	968,497.52		971,028.40	
<b>Snow/Ice Removal</b>				
Expense	200,000.00	210,000.00	210,000.00	
<b>Street Lights</b>				
Expense	9,673.91	9,673.91	9,673.91	
<b>Wachusett Earthday</b>	1,913.60	1,854.00	1,854.00	
<b>Cemeteries</b>				
Salaries	39,901.02	40,656.00		
Expense	5,000.00	5,000.00		
Sub-Total	44,901.02		45,656.00	
<b>TOTAL PUBLIC WORKS</b>	1,224,986.05		1,238,212.31	

DEPARTMENT	FY17 BUDGET VOTED	FY18 PROPOSED BUDGET	FY18 Sub-Total To Be Voted On	FY18 AC RECOMMENDS (IF DIFFERENT)
<b>SCHOOLS</b>				
<b>Wachusett Regional School</b>				
Wachusett Min. Contribution	3,456,367.00	3,456,189.00		
Operations Assessment	709,563.00	827,913.00		
Transportation	226,589.00	254,380.00		
Long Term Debt	177,139.00	174,357.00		
Sub-total	4,569,658.00		4,712,839.00	
Montachusett Reg. Vocational	313,077.00	277,757.00	277,757.00	
<b>TOTAL SCHOOLS</b>	4,882,735.00		4,990,596.00	
<b>PUBLIC WORKS:</b>				
<b>Highway</b>				
Salaries	351,439.52	354,070.40		
Expense	267,058.00	266,958.00		
Road Reconstruction	350,000.00	350,000.00		
Sub-Total	968,497.52		971,028.40	
<b>Snow/Ice Removal</b>				
Expense	200,000.00	210,000.00	210,000.00	
<b>Street Lights</b>				
Expense	9,673.91	9,673.91	9,673.91	
<b>Wachusett Earthday</b>	1,913.60	1,854.00	1,854.00	
<b>Cemeteries</b>				
Salaries	39,901.02	40,656.00		
Expense	5,000.00	5,000.00		
Sub-Total	44,901.02		45,656.00	
<b>TOTAL PUBLIC WORKS</b>	1,224,986.05		1,238,212.31	
<b>HUMAN SERVICES</b>				
<b>Council on Aging</b>				
Salary	16,146.60	16,146.00		
Expense	1,700.00	1,700.00		
Sub-Total	17,846.60		17,846.00	



DEPARTMENT	FY17 BUDGET VOTED	FY18 PROPOSED BUDGET	FY18 Sub-Total To Be Voted On	FY18 AC RECOMMENDS (IF DIFFERENT)
<b>Veterans Services</b>				
Salary	2,500.00	2,500.00		
Expense	19,000.00	18,000.00		
Sub-Total	21,500.00		20,500.00	
<b>TOTAL HUMAN SERVICES</b>	39,346.60		38,346.00	
<b>CULTURE &amp; RECREATION:</b>				
<b>Library</b>				
Salaries	112,884.14	112,884.14		
Expense	64,510.00	66,000.00		
Sub-Total	177,394.14		178,884.14	
<b>Parks &amp; Recreation</b>				
Salaries	4,809.30	4,809.30		
Expense	4,100.00	4,100.00		
Sub-Total	8,909.30		8,909.30	
<b>Historical Commission</b>				
Expense	1,500.00	1,500.00	1,500.00	
<b>Memorial Day</b>				
Expense	1,800.00	1,800.00	1,800.00	
<b>TOTAL CULTURE &amp; RECREATION</b>	189,603.44		191,093.44	
<b>DEBT &amp; INTEREST:</b>				
<b>Police Cruisers</b>	30,000.00	16,000.00	16,000.00	
<b>Bentley Purchase</b>	37,950.00	36,470.00	36,470.00	
<b>Thomas Prince/PCBs</b>	32,650.00	31,875.00	31,875.00	
<b>Thomas Prince/Green Repair</b>	128,725.00	126,500.00	126,500.00	
<b>General Interest/Borrowing Fees</b>	15,000.00	15,000.00	15,000.00	
<b>Broadband Make Ready</b>	15,000.00	130,132.00	130,132.00	
<b>Fieldstone Farm</b>	95,000.00	86,000.00	86,000.00	
<b>TOTAL DEBT</b>	354,325.00		441,977.00	

DEPARTMENT	FY17	FY18	FY18	FY18
	BUDGET	PROPOSED	Sub-Total	AC
	VOTED	BUDGET	To Be Voted On	RECOMMENDS
				(IF DIFFERENT)
<b>MISCELLANEOUS:</b>				
Retirement	237,404.00	208,155.00	208,155.00	
Town Insurance	123,000.00	140,500.00	140,500.00	
Health Insurance	325,000.00	307,000.00	307,000.00	
Life & Fringe	10,800.00	7,057.00	7,057.00	
FICA/Medicare	41,704.74	42,534.00	42,534.00	
Wage/Salary Reserve		45,000.00	45,000.00	
(Police & Class. & Comp Study)				
<b>TOTAL MISCELLANEOUS</b>	<b>737,908.74</b>		<b>750,246.00</b>	
<b>GRAND TOTAL:</b>	<b>9,314,617.00</b>		<b>9,577,482.59</b>	

Advisory Committee Approves

**ARTICLE 4.** To see if the Town will vote to establish the FY18 ambulance operating budget by use of receipts for ambulance services received to date and if necessary by raising and appropriating or by appropriating from available funds. Receipts for ambulance services received in FY18 and all subsequent fiscal years to be deposited into a receipt reserved for appropriation account established in FY01. Appropriations from said account to be made at either the annual or special town meetings for the purpose of maintaining and operating the Town's ambulance service, i.e. salary for ambulance employees, vehicle maintenance, fuel, equipment and operating supplies. The requested appropriation for the FY18 ambulance-operating budget is \$54,620 for salary and \$50,141 for expenses for a total budget of \$104,761 with any balance in said account to be carried forward to subsequent years, or take any other action relative thereto.

*This article establishes the FY18 receipts reserved for appropriation account from which ambulance operating expenses will be paid.*

Advisory Committee Approves

**ARTICLE 5.** To see if the Town will vote to establish the FY18 trash operating budget. Receipts for trash disposal services received in FY18 and all subsequent fiscal years to be deposited into a trash enterprise fund account established in FY08. Appropriations from said account to be made at either the annual or special town meetings for the purpose of paying for the proper disposal of solid waste generated within the town. The requested appropriation for the FY18 trash-operating budget is \$45,000, of which \$35,000 be appropriated from Solid Waste Enterprise Receipts and \$10,000 be appropriated from Solid Waste

Enterprise-Available Retained Earnings. Any balance in said account to be carried forward to subsequent years, or take any other action relative thereto.

*The Town pays directly to Wheelabrator Millbury, Inc. where the trash incinerator is located for solid waste disposal. This article allows the town to receive offsetting payments from trash haulers which are deposited into this account.*

#### Advisory Committee Approves

<b>ARTICLE 6: DEPARTMENTAL REVOLVING FUNDS AUTHORIZATION</b>					
To see if the Town will vote to authorize revolving funds for certain town departments					
under Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 44 Section 53E 1/2 for the fiscal year					
beginning July 1, 2017, or take any other action relative thereto.					
<b>Revolving Fund</b>	<b>Authorized to Spend Fund</b>	<b>Revenue Source</b>	<b>Use of Fund</b>	<b>FY 2017 Spending Limit</b>	<b>FY 2018 Spending Limit</b>
Building Department	Bldg. Inspector Town Admin.	Fees from Bldg, Wiring, and Plumbing Permits	To Pay Administrative & Inspector Salary & Expenses	\$78,253	\$40,000
Library	Library Director, Town Admin.	Copy Machine, Fax, Fines and Fees	Defray Operational Expenses	\$5,000	\$4,000
Parks and Recreation (P&R)	P&R Commission Chairman, P&R Director, and Town Admin.	Fees Collected from Recreational Programs	Provide Recreational Programs & Pay Salaries	\$39,126	\$30,000
Parks and Recreation (P&R)	P&R Commission Chairman, P&R Director, and Town Admin.	Fees Collected from Recreational Programs	Maintenance of Parks Pay Salaries	\$39,126	\$30,000
Princeton Center	Princeton Center Director, Town Admin.	Rental fees	Defray Operational & Maintenance Exp.	\$78,253	\$50,000
Board of Health	Board of Health Town Admin.	Permits & Inspections	Salary & Expense	\$35,000	\$19,000
Cemetery	Cemetery Comm. Chairman, Town Admin.	Burial Fees	Salary & Expense	\$7,500	\$4,000
Fire Department	Fire Chief, Deputy Chiefs, Town Admin.	Fees from Fire Permits	To Pay Administrative & Inspector Salary & Expenses	\$7,500	\$6,500
<b>Total Spending</b>					\$183,500

*All departments having revolving accounts were asked to complete a FY18 budget request. The spending limits were adjusted for each account to match revenue anticipated and available for each fund, as well as budgets requested, with minor exceptions. Please note that the Municipal Modernization Act of 2016 changed the procedures for Revolving Funds, requiring that a By-Law be established for revolving funds. Please see Article 25 for the proposed By-Law.*

Advisory Committee Approves

**ARTICLE 7.** (FY 2017) To see if the Town will vote to transfer from available funds a sum of money to address a deficit in snow & ice removal expense pursuant to M.G.L. c. 44, §31D, or take any other action relative thereto.

FROM:

Acct. #01-5-320-600 Wachusett Regional School District \$65,146.48

TO:

Acct. #01-5-423-780 Snow/Ice Removal Expense \$65,146.48

*The current Fiscal Year has generated a snow & ice deficit which needs to be addressed. Transferring funds from the Wachusett Regional School District line, which are available dollars, given that the final assessment was reduced, will address this issue.*

Advisory Committee Approves

**ARTICLE 8.** To see if the Town will vote to transfer from undesignated fund balance (free cash) account # 27-5-999-000 a sum of \$50,000 to the Town's Stabilization Fund (General Stabilization Account # 83-5-041-000) or take any other action relative thereto.

*This account is one of the town's savings accounts. General Stabilization may be used for any lawful purpose. A 2/3 vote is **required** to appropriate funds to or from any Stabilization account.*

Advisory Committee Approves

**ARTICLE 9.** To see if the town will vote to transfer from undesignated fund balance (free cash) account # 27-5-999-000 a sum of \$52,000 to be deposited in the Other Post Employment Benefits Liability Trust Fund in order to offset future health insurance costs for retirees, or to take any other action relative thereto.

*Approval of this article will authorize a contribution to a trust fund established by the May, 2011 Annual Town Meeting to fund future health insurance liabilities for retirees, similar to funding future pension obligations.*

Advisory Committee Approves

**ARTICLE 10.** To see if the Town will vote to transfer from Environmental Clean-Up account # 03-5-420-201 a sum of \$50,000 to install an exhaust evacuation system in Headquarters and Fire Station #2, to be spent by the Board of Selectmen, with unexpended funds as of June 30, 2019 being returned to their

original funding source and to authorize the Board of Selectmen and/or Fire Chief on behalf of the Town to seek and accept grants to reduce the expenditure; or take any other action relative thereto.

*In accordance with the National Fire Protection Association Standard 1500, Chapter 9, it advocates the need for the elimination and containment of all vehicle exhaust emissions. This complies with NIOSH's requirement to reduce emissions to the lowest feasible level to limit impact on human life.*

Advisory Committee Approves

**ARTICLE 11.** To see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of \$30,000 from the below listed accounts, to make repairs to the roof of the Library with unexpended funds as of June 30, 2019 being returned to their original funding source, or take any other action relative thereto.

Transfer from: NetWork Design Engineering, Account #03-5-122-301	\$ 400.00
Equip Town Bldgs for NSIS, Account #03-5-122-302	\$ 3,454.52
Network Readiness, Account #03-5-122-303	\$ 2,395.74
Regional Pub. Safety Dispatch, Account #03-5-122-782	\$ 1,108.63
ADA Expense-STAB.04, Account #03-5-196-200	\$ 3,269.35
TPS Tile Replacement, Account #03-5-310-202	\$10,446.21
Free Cash, Account #27-5-999-000	<u>\$ 8,925.55</u>
Transfer to: Library Roof Repairs (new account)	\$30,000.00

*Approval of this article allows needed repairs to be made to the Library roof, consistent with an evaluation of the roof completed in November of 2015. The accounts proposed for "Transfer from" are either older authorizations that are not anticipated to be needed or completed projects. All Transfer from accounts will be closed with the exception of the Environmental Clean-Up account, which is still being used to pay for the PCB testing at the Thomas Prince School, testing at the Public Safety Building site from the historical underground storage tanks, and the Hubbardston Road Landfill.*

Advisory Committee Approves

**ARTICLE 12.** To see if the Town will vote to allow the remaining funds in the Thomas Prince School Playground Equipment account # 03-5-310-204, having a sum of \$21,289.49, to be spent by the Parks & Recreation Commission for playground equipment (purchase and/or install) at Krashes Field, or take any other action relative thereto.

*The TPS Playground Equipment appropriation was established by the May 14, 2013 Annual Town Meeting. The article and motion specifically referenced the Thomas Prince School playground and therefore did not allow flexibility to use the balance of the funds at Krashes Field for a potential playground structure.*

Advisory Committee Approves

**ARTICLE 13.** To see if the Town will vote to transfer from undesignated fund balance (free cash) account # 27-5-999-000 a sum of \$75,000 to replace a 6-Wheel Dump Truck in the Highway Department with

unexpended funds as of December 31, 2017 being returned to their original funding source, or take any other action relative thereto.

*Approval of this article would allow for the replacement of a 21 year old International 6-Wheel Dump Truck in the Highway Department with a vehicle to service the Town's needs.*

Advisory Committee Approves

**ARTICLE 14.** To see if the Town will vote to transfer from undesignated fund balance (free cash) account # 27-5-999-000 a sum of \$35,000 and from the Bagg Hall Renovation account #03-5-192-302 a sum of \$65,000 to conduct a buildings study for the functions of Bagg Hall, the Public Safety Complex, Town Hall Annex, and Princeton Center, or take any other action relative thereto.

*The purpose of this article, and articles 15 and 16, is to begin a systematic approach to establishing a long-term plan for maintaining and upgrading town buildings. The first article would appropriate sufficient funds for the analysis of the functions of Town departments in four specific buildings, which are much needed for the continued effective operation of town services. These buildings require major building code and/or envelope improvements to continue operating. The study would investigate current and long term space needs at the existing sites, and review alternatives as well. The study would provide recommendations and alternatives that could then be used, along with other reports, to identify a path forward on all major capital assets.*

Advisory Committee Approves

**ARTICLE 15.** To see if the Town will vote to transfer from undesignated fund balance (free cash) account # 27-5-999-000 a sum of \$250,000 to make any needed emergency repairs to any Town building (e.g. Fire Alarms in multiple buildings, Bagg Hall repointing or windows, Annex roof or exterior painting, Public Safety roof, and Princeton Center roof), the expenditure of such funds to be authorized by the Board of Selectmen and Advisory Committee, or take any other action relative thereto.

*Little has been done to refurbish, maintain or upgrade town buildings over the past 25-30 years. The result is that we are now facing a number of significant and costly projects merely to preserve many of our buildings. A total of approximately \$850k was presented by departments for immediate maintenance and/or capital improvements to Town buildings for Fiscal Year 2018. With some minor exceptions, these requests are being deferred until the study presented in Article 14, presenting recommendations and alternatives, is prepared and presented to the Town. Approval of this article will permit the Town to make emergency repairs to the extent necessary during the study period, should an unexpected event occur. Any unused funds will be proposed for transfer to the Infrastructure Stabilization fund to offset any future major capital costs.*

Advisory Committee Approves

**ARTICLE 16.** To see if the Town will authorize the Board of Selectmen to sell and convey the following parcels of land, pursuant to M.G.L. c. 30B, such land having been determined to be no longer needed for any municipal purposes, upon such terms and conditions as determined by the Selectmen,

and to transfer from undesignated fund balance (free cash) account # 27-5-999-000 a sum of \$20,000 for surveying and legal fees, or take any other action relative thereto.

1. Rocky Pond Road, having frontage on Fitchburg Road, and being approximately 0.8 acres of land and shown on Assessors Map 001.0, Block 0023, Lot 0000.E and also on a plan of land entitled, "Plan of Lots prepared for Elizabeth F. Ball Princeton, Mass., Scale: 1 inch = 100 ft – March 27, 1973, Michael S. Szoc Surveyor" recorded in the Worcester Registry of Deeds, Plan Book 381 Plan 6;
2. Fitchburg Road and being approximately 2.5 acres of land and shown on Assessors Map 001.0, Block 0024, Lot 0001.B, and also on a plan of land entitled, "Compiled Plan of Land of Harold T. Moody et ux Princeton, Mass., Scale - 1 inches 100 ft. - July 14, 1972, Michael S. Szoc Surveyor" recorded in the Worcester Registry of Deeds, Plan Book 374, Plan 12;
3. Redemption Rock Trail and being approximately 9.5 acres of land and shown on Assessors Map 005.0, Block 0043, Lot 0000.0, recorded in the Worcester Registry of Deeds, Book 3742, Page 52;
4. Mountain Road and being approximately 4.29 acres of land and shown on Assessors Map 008.0, Block 0025, Lot 0010.0, and also on a plan of land entitled, "Plan of Land in Princeton, Mass. Owner: Paul A. and Cathy H. Kalenian and Walter S. and Joan Kuklinski, Scale: 1" = 80', January 26, 1988, Plan & Survey By: Guerard Survey Co. & Associates" recorded in the Worcester Registry of Deeds, Plan Book 593, Plan 61;
5. Mountain Road and being approximately 4.42 acres of land and shown on Assessors Map 008.0, Block 0025, Lot 0011.0, and also on a plan of land entitled, "Plan of Land in Princeton, Mass. Owner: Paul A. and Cathy H. Kalenian and Walter S. and Joan Kuklinski, Scale: 1" = 80', January 26, 1988, Plan & Survey By: Guerard Survey Co. & Associates" recorded in the Worcester Registry of Deeds, Plan Book 593, Plan 61;
6. Thompson Road and being approximately 0.33 acres of land and shown on Assessors Map 008.A, Block 0001, Lot 0000.C, and also on a plan of land entitled, "Plan of Land in Princeton, Mass. Owned by Maxwell H. Reck, Scale 1" = 80', April 1973, George E. Smith Jr., Surveyor" recorded in the Worcester Registry of Deeds, Plan Book 381, Plan 49;
7. Hubbardston Road and being approximately 6.77 acres of land and shown on Assessors Map 011.0, Block 0002, Lot 0000.0;
8. Hubbardston Road and being approximately 2.3 acres of land and shown on Assessors Map 011.0, Block 0011, Lot 0000.0;
9. Ball Hill Road and being approximately 4 acres of land and shown on Assessors Map 014.0, Block 0005, Lot 0005.0, and also on a plan of land entitled, "Plan of Land in Princeton prepared for Dennis R. and Phyllis A. Pomerleau, 1" = 100', 9 February 1989, Berry Engineering, Inc." recorded in the Worcester Registry of Deeds, Plan Book 615, Plan 10;

10. Calamint Hill Road South and being approximately 1.0 acre of land and shown on Assessors Map 014.0, Block 0053, Lot 0000.0, recorded in the Worcester Registry of Deeds, Book 28022, Page 106; and
11. Brooks Station Road and being approximately 0.92 acres of land and shown on Assessors Map 017.0, Block 0004, Lot 0000.0, and also on a plan of land entitled, "Plan of Land in Princeton, Mass. Owned by Charles O. Clark Scale: 1" = 30' Sept. 1964 Nelson J. Boucher, Land Surveyor" recorded in the Worcester Registry of Deeds, Plan Book 615, Plan 10.

*These properties were recommended for sale by the Underutilized Assets Committee of 2012. Approval of this article would grant authority to allow these lots to be sold. The Board of Selectmen will be responsible to determine when & how to best sell the various parcels. Once the properties are sold, and the funds have flowed to free cash, the proceeds will be proposed for transfer to the Infrastructure Stabilization fund to offset any future major capital costs as a result of the buildings plan above.*

Advisory Committee Approves

**ARTICLE 17.** To see if the Town will vote to transfer from undesignated fund balance (free cash) account # 27-5-999-000 the sum of \$50 to the Goodnow Book Expense Account for the purchase of books for the Library, as required by the terms of the Goodnow Deed of Gift, or take any other action thereto.

*The Deed of Gift requires an annual payment of \$50.*

Advisory Committee Approves

**ARTICLE 18.** To see if the Town will vote to transfer from undesignated fund balance (free cash) account # 27-5-999-000 a sum of \$2,000 for town concerts, or take any other action thereto.

*This article funds the summer concerts on the Town Common.*

Advisory Committee Approves

**ARTICLE 19.** To see if the Town will vote to transfer from undesignated fund balance (free cash) account # 27-5-999-000 a sum of \$500 to support the Wachusett Greenways, or take any other action thereto.

*This article funds a portion of the Wachusett Greenways operation for maintaining and managing the rail trails in the Wachusett area.*

Advisory Committee Approves

**ARTICLE 20.** To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectmen to contract and accept any grants from the Mass. Department of Transportation-Highway Division for the construction of any road or related work that may be allotted to the Town for the ensuing year or to take any other action relative thereto.

*This article authorizes the Selectmen to accept any grants or contracts with the state for road or road-related projects.*



Advisory Committee Approves

**ARTICLE 21.** To see if the Town will vote to approve naming the courtyard in the area of the Art Department at the Wachusett Regional High School in honor of recently retired teacher Ralph Caouette, or take any other action thereto.

*Mr. Caouette was a Wachusett teacher from 1982 until his retirement in the summer of 2016, teaching high school students all 34 years of his Wachusett career. Mr. Caouette served as the Art Department Liaison, and then as the Art Department Head for several years and was a very well respected and valued member of the high school faculty. At the completion of the addition/renovation project at the high school there was no landscaping in the courtyard adjacent to the Art Department area, and Mr. Caouette worked with students to create a concept for the courtyard and facilitated the building of a ramp, deck, garden beds, and picnic tables. In accordance with a policy by the Wachusett Regional School District Committee, a room or building owned by a Member Town shall not be named as a memorial to any person or organization except by vote of the respective town at town meeting.*

Advisory Committee Approves

**ARTICLE 22.** To see if the Town will vote under the provisions of M.G.L. c. 40, §5B to create a special purpose Stabilization Fund for the purpose of reserving funds for the replacement and/or repair of the septic system at the Thomas Prince School; and that the Town appropriate by transfer the sum of \$1.00 (one dollar) from the present General Stabilization Fund; or to take any other action relative thereto.

*The Town and the Wachusett Regional School District have recently signed a new Maintenance Agreement, which provides for an annual payment to the Town of Princeton toward the replacement or repair costs of the septic system at the school. A 2/3 vote is required to establish a stabilization fund an/or to appropriate funds to or from any Stabilization account in accordance with M.G.L. c. 40, §5B.*

Advisory Committee Approves

**ARTICLE 23.** To see if the Town will vote to accept c. 653, §40 of the Acts of 1989 commencing with Fiscal Year 2018 beginning July 1, 2017.

*This provides that in any city or town which accepts these provisions, will allow the town to timely assess new growth, with the value of any new construction or physical changes to real estate made during the period beginning January second and ending on June thirtieth, that which relates to be deemed part of such real property as of January first, or take any action relative thereto.*

Advisory Committee Approves

**ARTICLE 24.** To see if the Town will vote to amend the Town By-Laws Chapter XII – DOG RESTRAINT AND REGULATIONS by deleting Section 10. FEES, 2. Unlicensed Dog Fine in its entirety and replacing it as follows, or take any action relative thereto:

2. Late Fee:

A late fee of \$25.00 per dog shall be imposed on the owner of a dog who has not licensed such dog on or before the last business day in the month of April of each year; postmark is not acceptable.

*The above references to the Town By-Laws are names, as listed in the Town By-Laws. This change only changes the regulations, not matters related to restraint. The late fee, currently described as an Unlicensed Dog Fine in Item 2, assessed owners that have not registered their dogs by the last business day in April has been historically tied to the fee for unregistered dogs in M.G.L. c. 140, §141. The fee in M.G.L. c. 140, §141 has increased from \$25.00 to \$50.00. This amendment would keep the late fee at the current \$25.00, in place since 1997, and not subject this fee to changes in M.G.L. c. 140, §141.*

Advisory Committee Approves

**ARTICLE 25.** To see if the Town will vote to amend the Town Bylaws by the addition of SECTION XVIII: DEPARTMENT REVOLVING FUNDS as proposed below.

## SECTION XVIII: DEPARTMENTAL REVOLVING FUNDS

### SECTION 1. Purpose.

This by-law establishes and authorizes revolving funds for use by town, departments, boards, committees, agencies and officers in connection with the operation of programs or activities that generate fees, charges or other receipts to support all or some of the expenses of those programs or activities. These revolving funds are established under and governed by General Laws Chapter 44, § 53E½.

### SECTION 2. Expenditure Limitations.

A department, board, committee, commission or officer may incur liabilities against and spend monies from a revolving fund established and authorized by this by-law without appropriation subject to the following limitations:

- A. Fringe benefits of full-time employees whose salaries or wages are paid from the fund shall also be paid from the fund.
- B. No liability shall be incurred in excess of the available balance of the fund.
- C. The total amount spent during a fiscal year shall not exceed the amount authorized by Annual Town Meeting on or before July 1 of that fiscal year, or any increased amount of that authorization that is later approved during that fiscal year by the Board of Selectmen and Advisory/Finance Committee.

### SECTION 3. Interest.

Interest earned on monies credited to a revolving fund established by this by-law shall be credited to the general fund.

### SECTION 4. Procedures and Reports.

Except as provided in General Laws Chapter 44, § 53E½ and this by-law, the laws, by-laws, rules, regulations, policies or procedures that govern the receipt and custody of town monies and the expenditure and payment of town funds shall apply to the use of a revolving fund established and authorized by this by-law. The Town Accountant shall include a statement on the collections credited to

the fund, the encumbrances and expenditures charged to each fund and the balance available for expenditure in the regular report the Town Accountant provides the department, board, committee, commission or officer on appropriations made for its use.

## SECTION 5. Authorized Revolving Funds.

The Table establishes:

- A. Each revolving fund authorized for use by a town department, board, committee, commission or officer,
- B. The department head, board, committee, commission or officer authorized to spend from each fund,
- C. The fees, charges and other monies charged and received by the department, board, committee, commission or officer in connection with the program or activity for which the fund is established that shall be credited to each fund by the Town Accountant,
- D. The expenses of the program or activity for which each fund may be used,
- E. Any restrictions or conditions on expenditures from each fund;
- F. Any reporting or other requirements that apply to each fund, and
- G. The fiscal years each fund shall operate under this by-law.

<u>A</u>	<u>B</u>	<u>C</u>	<u>D</u>	<u>E</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>G</u>
Revolving Fund	Authorized to Spend Fund	Fees, Charges or Other Receipts Credited to Fund	Program or Activity Expenses Payable from Fund	Restrictions or Conditions on Expenses Payable from Fund	Other Requirements/ Reports	Fiscal Years
Building Department	Bldg. Inspector Town Admin.	Fees from Bldg. Wiring, and Plumbing Permits	To Pay Administrative & Inspector Salary & Expenses	None	None	Fiscal Year 2019 and subsequent years
Library	Library Director, Town Admin.	Copy Machine, Fax, Fines and Fees	Defray Operational Expenses	None	None	Fiscal Year 2019 and subsequent years
Parks and Recreation (P&R)	P&R Commission Chairman, P&R Director, and Town Admin.	Fees Collected from Recreational Programs	Provide Recreational Programs & Pay Salaries	None	None	Fiscal Year 2019 and subsequent years
Parks and Recreation (P&R)	P&R Commission Chairman, P&R Director, and Town Admin.	Fees Collected from Recreational Programs	Maintenance of Parks Pay Salaries	None	None	Fiscal Year 2019 and subsequent years
Princeton Center	Princeton Center Director, Town Admin.	Rental fees	Defray Operational & Maintenance Exp.	None	None	Fiscal Year 2019 and subsequent years
Board of Health	Board of Health Town Admin.	Permits & Inspections	Salary & Expense	None	None	Fiscal Year 2019 and subsequent years
Cemetery	Cemetery Comm. Chairman, Town Admin.	Burial Fees	Salary & Expense	None	None	Fiscal Year 2019 and subsequent years
Fire Department	Fire Chief, Deputy Chiefs, Town Admin.	Fees from Fire Permits	To Pay Administrative & Inspector Salary & Expenses	None	None	Fiscal Year 2019 and subsequent years

*The Municipal Modernization Act of 2016 changed the procedures for Revolving Funds. This article follows the guidelines of the Department of Revenue, Division of Local Services.*

## Advisory Committee Approves

**ARTICLE 26.** To see if the Town will vote to a) amend the Princeton Zoning By-Law by the addition of SECTION XXII: SIGNS as proposed below. And to b) amend the Princeton Zoning Bylaw by deleting existing Section III-1-(H) (Residential-Agricultural District: Signs), existing Section IV-1-(I) (Business District: Signs), the definition of Sign in existing Section X, and the definition of Sign Area in existing Section X, and change the reference in existing Section XVIII-2-(C) to read "...permitted in Section XXII.2.A", or take any other action thereto:

### SECTION XXII. SIGNS

1. Purpose. Signs are devices designed to inform or attract the attention of persons not on the premises on which the device is located. This by-law regulates the design and placement of signs, and is intended to strike a balance between the need to inform and attract attention, and the preservation of the rural and agricultural character of the Town.
2. Residential-Agricultural Districts.
  - A. Home Occupations. Property that is used for a home occupation may have one sign for that home occupation, not to exceed six (6) square feet in area. The sign may be free-standing, or attached to the building in which the home occupation is conducted.
  - B. Agricultural Activities. Property that is used for agricultural activities may have one freestanding sign for those agricultural activities, not to exceed six (6) square feet in area, and one sign affixed to each building used for those agricultural activities. A projecting or hanging sign attached to a building shall not exceed twelve (12) square feet in area. A sign attached flat to the wall of a building shall be no larger than 5 percent (5 %) of the area of the wall.
  - C. Real Estate Signs. Property that is for sale or for rent may have one sign not to exceed six (6) square feet in area. The sign may be free-standing, or affixed to the building which is for sale or lease.
  - D. Personal Signs. An owner may have one personal sign identifying the property. Free-standing personal signs shall not exceed six (6) square feet in area. Personal signs that are affixed to buildings shall not exceed twelve (12) square feet in area.
  - E. Signs Incidental to a Permitted Use. An owner may have one sign incidental to a permitted use. Free-standing signs incidental to a permitted use shall not exceed six (6) square feet in area. Signs incidental to a permitted use that are affixed to buildings shall not exceed twelve (12) square feet in area.
  - F. "Open" Flags. A home occupation or agricultural activity may have a single "Open" flag affixed to a free-standing sign or to a building. "Open" flags shall not be larger than 3 feet by 5 feet.

3. Business and Business-Industrial Districts. Properties and buildings used for business or industrial purposes in Business or Business-Industrial Districts may have free-standing signs identifying the building or property and listing the businesses conducted in the building or on the property. Each business located in a building may have one additional sign affixed to the building.
- A. Free-Standing Signs – Single Business. Properties that are used for a single business may have one free-standing sign identifying the property and the business not to exceed thirty (30) square feet in area.
  - B. Free-Standing Signs – Multiple Businesses. Properties that are used for multiple businesses may have one free-standing sign identifying the property and the building(s) and listing the multiple businesses, or two free-standing signs if permitted by paragraph 3.D. The portion of a free-standing sign identifying the property or building shall not exceed twenty (20) square feet in area. The portion of a free-standing sign identifying each business on the property or within the building shall not exceed sixteen (16) square feet in area for each business. The total area of a free-standing sign shall not exceed sixty (60) square feet in area.
  - C. Affixed Signs. Signs affixed to buildings may be attached flat against the wall of the building, or projecting or hanging at an angle to the wall of the building. A projecting or hanging sign shall not exceed six (6) square feet in area. The area of a sign attached flat to the wall of a building shall not exceed 5 percent (5 %) of the area of the wall. Where there are multiple businesses within a building, the total area of all signs attached flat to the wall shall not exceed 5 percent (5 %) of the area of the wall.
  - D. Large Properties and Buildings. Properties that have more than 300 feet of frontage or that have a total building area in excess of 10,000 square feet may have two free-standing signs identifying the building or property and listing the businesses conducted in the building or on the property, and additional signs affixed to the building for each business located in a building. The total area of a free-standing sign shall not exceed sixty (60) square feet in area. The total area of two free-standing signs shall not exceed eighty (80) square feet in area.
  - E. Temporary Promotional Signs. Not more than four (4) times a year, a business may have a single temporary promotional sign mounted on a movable, non-permanent frame, provided that the temporary promotional sign is removed within thirty (30) days. Temporary promotional signs shall not exceed sixteen (16) square feet in area. For property that is used for multiple businesses, there shall be no more than two (2) temporary promotional signs at any one time.
  - F. “Open” Flags. A business may have a single “Open” flag affixed to a free-standing sign or to a building. “Open” flags shall not be larger than 4 feet by 6 feet.
4. Design Criteria. All signs shall comply with the following design criteria. In the case of signs existing when this by-law was adopted that do not comply with these design criteria, when those signs are replaced, or repaired at a cost in excess of one thousand dollars (\$1,000.00), the replacement sign or repaired sign shall comply with these design criteria.

- A. Signs may be three-dimensional, provided that nothing protrudes more than twelve (12) inches from the face of the sign.
- B. Signs shall be illuminated only by non-flashing white light directed at the sign. The light may be mounted over the sign, or on the ground.
- C. Signs with neon, other gaseous tubes, or any form of interior illumination, are not permitted.
- D. Signs (other than “Open” flags) and all components of signs shall be stationary.
- E. The area of a sign shall be the area of the smallest horizontally or vertically oriented rectangle which could enclose all of the display area of the sign including the backing of the sign. For signs flat against a building, the area of the sign shall also include any backing that is different in color or material from the finish material of the side of the building. In calculating the area, there shall be no deduction for open spaces or other irregularities. Structural members shall not be included in calculating the area. Only one side of a back-to-back sign shall be included in calculating the area.
- F. Free-standing signs and temporary promotional signs shall not obstruct the view of drivers of vehicles entering or leaving the property.
- G. Free-standing signs and temporary promotional signs shall be set back not less than thirty (30) feet from the side lot lines of the property.

5. Signs on Town Property. The Board of Selectmen has jurisdiction over all matters involving signs on Town property, including along public rights of way.

6. Exclusions. This by-law is not intended to regulate

- A. the placement or display of signs for candidates for political office or ballot questions;
- B. the placement or display of flags and insignia of government, unless in connection with a business activity;
- C. the posting of legal notices;
- D. the erection of informational devices required by public agencies;
- E. temporary signs erected for a charitable or religious event, provided that such signs are removed within thirty (30) days;
- F. signs directing traffic, parking, or pedestrians; or
- G. signs and displays within buildings.

7. Enforcement. The Building Inspector shall enforce this by-law.

*Planning Board Explanation:*

*The Planning Board has recommended the adoption of a new Section XXII of the Zoning By-laws which will consolidate in one section all of the provisions relating to signs. The additional amendments provide for the deletion of language in the existing By-laws which will be replaced by new Section XXII.*

**Approval requires a 2/3 vote.**

Advisory Committee Disapproves

**ARTICLE 27.** To see if the Town will vote to amend Chapter X – TOWN ROADS AND WAYS, SECTION 2.(b), of the Town By-Laws, by striking the words “5) The sign conforms to the size requirements set forth in the Zoning By-Laws.”, or take any other action relative thereto.

*The current Zoning By-Laws do not set out size requirements for temporary signs. This change allows the By-Laws to be corrected to remove an erroneous reference, currently leading to no-where.*

Advisory Committee Approves

**ARTICLE 28.** To see if the Town will vote to: a) amend the Princeton General Bylaws by deleting the current CHAPTER III – ADVISORY COMMITTEE bylaw in its entirety and replacing it with a new CHAPTER III – FINANCE COMMITTEE bylaw as proposed below. And to b) amend the Princeton General Bylaws by making the changes attached hereto and necessitated by the proposed change to CHAPTER III of the Princeton General Bylaws described above.

#### CHAPTER III - FINANCE COMMITTEE BYLAW

SECTION 1. There shall be a Finance Committee consisting of seven legal voters of the Town, who shall be appointed in the manner hereinafter provided. No elective officer or full time town employee shall be eligible to serve on said committee. The current members of the committee shall continue in office until expiration of their respective terms.

SECTION 2. The Committee shall be chosen with a simple majority by an appointing committee consisting of the Moderator, the Chairman of the Board of Selectmen and the Chairman of the Finance Committee.

SECTION 3. Whenever any vacancy shall occur for any cause, said vacancy shall be filled immediately by the appointing committee as described in Section 2. The term of office for any person so chosen to fill a vacancy shall expire at the end of the fiscal year (June 30th), and the appointing committee shall appoint his or her successor to complete the unexpired term of the member in whose office such vacancy originally occurred.

SECTION 4. (A) The Finance Committee shall consider all matters relating to the appropriation, the borrowing, and expenditure of money by the Town and its indebtedness, and shall at its discretion consider any and all other matters that impact the financial business or well-being of the town, and may make recommendations to the town or to any board, officers or committee relative to the municipal financial affairs.

(B) The Finance Committee shall be responsible for the preparation and presentation of the Annual Town Budget for consideration at the Annual Town Meeting. It is expected in doing so that the Finance Committee will work closely and confer with the Selectboard, the Town Administrator, town departments and town boards and committees, and in this connection shall hold a public hearing on said Budget prior to the day of the Annual Town Meeting.

(C) All remaining articles in any warrant for a Town Meeting shall be referred to the Finance Committee for its consideration. The Selectmen after drawing any such warrant shall transmit immediately a copy thereof to each member of said committee. A public hearing shall be held upon all such articles, unless a public hearing is otherwise required by law, and a notice of such hearing shall be given by posting a copy thereof in a least four (4) public places in the Town. Said committee shall after due consideration of the subject matter of such articles, report thereon to the Town Meeting, in writing, such recommendations as it deems best for the interests of the Town and its citizens. Any recommendation that exists from the Finance Committee on an article will be read to the town meeting prior to any motions or discussion relative to the article. The Finance Committee may, during discussion of the article, change its recommendation and offer the altered recommendation to the town meeting provided it gives its reasons for changing its recommendation.

SECTION 5. In the discharge of its duty, said Committee shall have free access to all books of record and accounts, bills and vouchers on which money has been or may be paid from the town treasury. Officers, boards and committees of the Town shall, upon request, furnish said Committee with facts, figures and any other information pertaining to their several activities as otherwise provided by Law.

SECTION 6. It shall be the duty of the Finance Committee to make an annual written report of its doings, with recommendations relative to financial matters and the conduct of Town business.

#### PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE CURRENT PRINCETON GENERAL BYLAWS

Table of Contents – Chapter III shall be changed from “Advisory Committee to “Finance Committee”.

CHAPTER IV - FINANCIAL AFFAIRS, Section 5 is deleted in its entirety and the following Sections are renumbered accordingly. [Selectboard will no longer submit the budget at the annual town meeting.]

CHAPTER VI - LEGAL AFFAIRS, Section 2 the term “Advisory Committee is changed to “Finance Committee”. [Relates to Selectboard consulting with Advisory Committee concerning the compromise or settlement of any claim or suit to which the Town is a party.]

#### *Explanation Provided on the Citizens Petition:*

*Part (a) makes the following changes to the General Bylaw establishing the Advisory Committee. It (1) changes the name of the Committee to “Finance Committee”, it (2) provides for the Finance Committee’s appointment by a three-person appointing committee consisting of the moderator and the chairperson of the Finance Committee and the chairperson of the Selectboard, requiring a simple majority, it (3) charges the Finance Committee with the preparation and presentation of the Annual Town Budget, it (4) expands the role of the Finance Committee giving it the authority to, at its discretion, consider any and all matters that impact the financial business or well-being of the town and it (5) permits members of other appointed committees to serve on the Finance Committee. Part (b)*



*makes changes to the remaining General Bylaws necessitated by the proposed change in Part (a) to remove inconsistencies in the General Bylaws taken as a whole.*

Advisory Committee Abstains

## **ARTICLE 29. Environmental Action Plan Resolution**

To see if the Town will vote to adopt the following resolution, or take any other action relative thereto:

"WHEREAS, the Preface to the Town of Princeton's Town Plan, adopted in 2007, provides that 'Princeton will continue to be an exemplary community, mindful of the challenges facing the world and dedicated to local action that may have a positive effect on the region around us. '

WHEREAS, the Town of Princeton's Town Plan, adopted in 2007, sets forth goals that include:

- ' ... balanced development that not only preserves land but also builds places to live and work, avoids the economic and environmental costs of sprawl, and promotes diverse neighborhoods;'
- ' ... continu[ing] to provide an environment that sustains wildlife; '
- '[s]trengthen[ing] Princeton's role as a leader in ecological and environmental concern; ' and
- '[i]mprov[ing] communication among local businesses, town government and potential developers. '

WHEREAS, the Town of Princeton is required to attain environmental compliance with state and federal regulations including, but not limited to, regulations governing air quality, water resources, toxics and hazards, and waste and recycling;

WHEREAS, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts passed in 2008 the Global Warming Solutions Act (also known as the Climate Protection and Green Economy Act) (Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 21N), requiring reductions from all sectors of the economy to reach a target of a 25% reduction of 1990 greenhouse gas emission levels by 2020 and an 80% reduction of 1990 greenhouse gas emission levels by 2050;

WHEREAS, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts passed in 2008 the Green Communities Act (Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 169), which, among other things, promotes expansion in energy efficiency, supports the development of renewable energy resources, creates a new greener state building code, and created the Green Communities Designation and Grant Program, which helps municipalities navigate and meet the five criteria required to become a Green Community, in turn qualifying them for grants that finance additional energy efficiency and renewable energy projects at the local level;

WHEREAS, the Town of Princeton recognizes that sustainable environmental practices are critical to the economic development future and long-term financial stability of the Town of Princeton, and that a reduction in energy and resource use through conservation and improved efficiency can save money for the Town of Princeton, our community businesses, institutions, and residents;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town of Princeton:

ACKNOWLEDGES that goals of the Town's Master Plan and Massachusetts environmental laws necessitate that the Town be proactive in addressing environmental and energy considerations in future decision-making and actions;

ACKNOWLEDGES that engaging in sustainable environmental practices and increasing energy and resource use efficiency may benefit the environment, climate change, and the finances and well-being of the Town and its businesses, residents, and ecosystems;

SUPPORTS the constitution and appointment, by September 1, 2017, by the Board of Selectmen of an Environmental Action Committee for the Town of Princeton to create a Town of Princeton Environmental Action Plan to set goals and recommendations for Town of Princeton boards, departments and committees that may relate to, among other things:

- maximizing energy and resource use efficiency with Town operations, purchasing decisions, construction of capital assets, and community planning;
- promoting energy and resource use efficiency for Town residents, business, and institutions;
- exploring the opportunity, requirements and considerations related to the Town of Princeton obtaining a Green Communities Designation, which would make the Town eligible for Massachusetts grants to finance energy efficiency and renewable energy;
- preserving and enhancing the ecological systems and diversity of the Town of Princeton;
- encouraging environmental stewardship and protection of the Town of Princeton's natural environment through the sharing of environmental information with the community and through active and meaningful community participation;
- providing for sustainable development, while incorporating environmental considerations as an integral part in assessing growth management options, land use plans, transportation plans, and development proposals;
- achieving carbon dioxide emission reductions in compliance with the Global Warming Solutions Act; and
- ensuring Town compliance with environmental regulations."

*Explanation Provided on the Citizens Petition:*

*The Article proposes that the Town of Princeton resolve to create an Environmental Action Committee, which would be tasked with creating an Environmental Action Plan for the Town. Many municipalities throughout the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and the Nation have Environmental Action Plans or Climate Action Plans. Akin to the Town's existing Master Plan--which guides the Town on decisions related to development--, an Environmental Action Plan would set goals and recommend ways for the Town to: maximize energy and resource use efficiency; explore renewable energy grant opportunities; provide for sustainable development that allows for development while recognizing environmental considerations; achieve carbon emissions reductions as required by Massachusetts law; and ensure compliance with state and federal environmental regulations. In general, an Environmental Action Plan would aim to: find ways to increase efficiency of Town energy and resource use; ensure the Town is compliant with environmental regulations; and guide the Town with regard to various energy and environmental considerations.*

Advisory Committee Approves


\* \* \* \* \*

And you are directed to serve this Warrant by posting attested copies thereof seven days at least before time of said meeting at Bagg Hall, Mechanics Hall and the Princeton Post Office.


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


Given under our hands on this 25<sup>th</sup> day in April, 2017.


A true copy, ATTEST:

  
Lynne F. Grettum, Town Clerk

Seal

  
Stanley E. Moss, Chair

  
Jon H. Fudeman, Clerk

  
Edith M. Morgan

Selectmen of the Town of Princeton

I have this day posted the above warrant at Bagg Hall, Mechanics Hall, and Princeton Post Office.

Date: 04-25-17

  
Constable