



TOWN OF DARTMOUTH

Finance Committee
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Finance Committee Members

Mary Louise Nunes, Chair
Patrick Roth, Vice-Chair
Barry Walker, Clerk
Shannon Jenkins
David Ferreira
John Swanson
Lisa Koczera
Mark Eisenberg
Frank Gracie

Warrant Article Recommendations Fall Annual Town Meeting – October 19, 2010

ARTICLE 1: OUTSTANDING BILLS

Recommend
7-0-0

Rationale: Housekeeping article to pay outstanding bills from previous fiscal years.

ARTICLE 2: PERSONNEL BY-LAW

Recommend
7-0-0

Rationale: Changes job titles to more accurately describe employment duties.

ARTICLE 3: AUTHORIZATION FOR APPROPRIATION – WATERWAYS

Recommend
7-0-0

Rationale: To purchase and maintain equipment using funds Waterways retained earnings account to supplement Waterways operating budget.

ARTICLE 4: LEASE AGREEMENT WITH DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS – INSTALLATION OF SOLAR ENERGY GENERATING FACILITIES

Recommend
7-0-0

Rationale: This will allow us to explore the possibility of generating revenue from unproductive land.

ARTICLE 5: RESCINDING BORROWING AUTHORIZATION

Recommend From Floor
8-0-0

Rationale:

ARTICLE 6: AMENDMENT TO ARTICLE 3-JUNE 1, 2010 COMMUNITY PRESERVATION ACT – MASSACHUSETTS AUDUBON SOCIETY STONE BARN FARM RESTORATION AND REHABILITATION PROJECT – 786 HORSENECK ROAD

Recommend
8-0-0

Rationale: Town meeting previously approved the Stone Barn project. This article will rectify errors that were found within CPA accounting.

ARTICLE 7: AMENDMENT TO ARTICLE 6-JUNE 1, 2010 COMMUNITY PRESERVATION ACT – TOWN OF DARTMOUTH DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION – CREATION OF DARTMOUTH COMMUNITY PARK – DARTMOUTH STREET

Recommend
8-0-0

Rationale: Town meeting previously approved Phase 1 of the Community Park project. This article will rectify errors that were found within CPA accounting.

ARTICLE 8: COMMUNITY PRESERVATION ACT –RUSSELLS MILLS LIBRARY

Recommend
6-2-0

Rationale: Will start work needed to prepare Russells Mills Library for future sale or use.

Minority Opinion:

ARTICLE 9: COMMUNITY PRESERVATION ACT – DARTMOUTH COMMUNITY PARK PHASE II

Recommend
8-0-0

Rationale: This will fund Phase 2 of the Dartmouth Community Park

ARTICLE 10: COMMUNITY PARK GRANT AUTHORIZATION

Recommend From Floor
8-0-0

Rationale:

Minority Opinion:

ARTICLE 11: ZONING BY-LAWS – “FOR SALE” SIGNS AND REAL ESTATE DEVELOPMENT SIGNS IN COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL DISTRICTS

Recommend
8-0-0

Rationale: This article increases the allowable size of for sale and real estate development signs and provides consistency for signs within each type of commercial district.

**ARTICLE 12: ZONING-BY-LAWS - OFFICE INDUSTRIAL ZONING DISTRICT
FOR FAUNCE CORNER RD**

Recommend
8-0-0

Rationale: This article will create an Office Industrial District to provide for and control office and industrial Uses within its boundaries.

**ARTICLE 13: ACCEPTANCE OF MASSACHUSETTS GENERAL LAWS, CHAPTER 39
SECTION 23D – ADJUDICATORY HEARINGS**

Recommend
7-0-0

Rationale: This article will allow more expeditious processing of citizen petitions before various town boards.

**ARTICLE 14: ACCEPTANCE OF MASSACHUSETTS GENERAL LAWS, CHAPTER 32B
SECTION 7A – TOWN CONTRIBUTION MORE THAN 50 PERCENT
OF EMPLOYEE HEALTH INSURANCE FOR RETIREES**

Recommend
8-0-0

Rationale: Acceptance of this statute will make town meeting policy regarding negotiations with active employees and retirees consistent.

**ARTICLE 15: SPECIAL PETITION TO LEGISLATURE TO CREATE A
TRUST FUND FOR POLICE OFFICER MEDICAL BENEFITS**

Recommend
7-1-0

Rationale: State law allows a trust fund for worker's compensation. This article will petition the legislature to allow us to create a similar fund for police officer medical benefits which are not covered under worker's compensation.

Minority Opinion (Nunes): The petition to the legislature may lead to the creation of an additional trust fund within the town. The administration is concerned about late bills (see Article 1) – especially in the medical area. I do not believe that the small amount of late bills is justification to (possibly) create another trust fund. If additional funds are required above those budgeted, then the Finance Committee should be informed and a Reserve Fund Transfer should be requested. This allows for checks and balances on town finances.

ARTICLE 16: GENERAL BY-LAWS – PARKING REGULATIONS

Recommend From Floor
8-0-0

Rationale:

Minority Opinion:

ARTICLE 17: HANDICAPPED PARKING

Recommend
6-2-0

Rationale: Raises the fines for violation of handicapped parking regulations. It has been presented to us that the purpose of this article is to fund Dartmouth Disability Action Committee activities

Minority Opinion (Walker, Nunes): Although we agree with the increased fines for violations of handicapped parking regulations, the details have not been finalized by the Select Board, Finance Committee and the Dartmouth Disability Action Committee. There is a Memorandum of Understanding that has not been discussed and voted on by the Select Board and Fin Comm. The uncertainty is with a particular budget line item and the funding projects.

ARTICLE 18: GENERAL BY-LAWS – BLACK FRIDAY

Recommend
5-3-0

Rationale: This article will require that any retail business planning to open between the hours of 12 a.m. and 4 a.m. submit an application to the Select Board and to work with local police to prepare a public safety plan.

Minority Opinion (Nunes, Eisenberg, Walker): The adoption of this article will add another regulation to our overly burdened businesses. Businesses could opt to open at 4:00 a.m. and would not need to comply with these new regulations. In doing so, it would not prevent customers from forming lines at any hour prior to the start of business. Yes, the police department could disperse the lines but we have not heard of that happening in our town in the past.

**ARTICLE 19: ACCEPTANCE OF CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLANNING COMMITTEE
REPORT AND FUNDING OF FY 2011 CAPITAL PLAN**

Recommend From Floor
8-0-0

Rationale:

Minority Opinion:

ARTICLE 20: BORROWING – QUINN SCHOOL ROOF REPLACEMENT

Recommend
7-0-0

Rationale: It is advantageous to replace the roof now due to the availability of federal stimulus money from state government grant program.

ARTICLE 21: COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AND NON-UNION COLA FOR FY2011

Recommend
7-1-0

Rationale: This article will fund collective bargaining agreements for town union employees and cost-of-living adjustments for non-union employees.

Minority Opinion (Nunes): While I am in agreement with the increases for our town *union* employees, the wording of the Article leaves me no choice but to vote no. This article provides our non-union employees with raises as well. Some of those employees earn more than \$100,000 per year and have not been in employment for at least one year. That is unconscionable in today's economy.

ARTICLE 22: APPROPRIATION TO THE STABILIZATION FUND

Recommend From Floor

8-0-0

Rationale:

Minority Opinion: