

Westwood Finance Commission



2011 Annual Town Meeting Warrant Article Summary

Schedule of Public Hearings

February 28

March 1

March 21, 22

7:30 P.M.

Westwood High School Little Theatre

In the event of severe weather, please check the Town of Westwood web site at

www.townhall.westwood.ma.us

for weather related postponement information.



Finance Commission

Mary Masi-Phelps, Chairman
John Grogan, Vice Chairman

Charles Bean	Russell Lavoie
Richard Cocivera	Marianne LeBlanc
Lee Ann Cote	Denise Murphy
Craig Foscaldo	Peter Neville
Peter Frodigh	Raymond Sleight
George Hertz	Robert Uek
	Richard Wade

Sheila Nee, Administrator

A Note from Finance Commission Chairman Mary Masi-Phelps

As the Finance Commission prepares for the 2011 Annual Town Meeting, I would like to invite Westwood residents to learn more about the role of the Commission and participate in our upcoming public hearings.

The Finance Commission is a fifteen member Commission whose members are appointed by the Town Moderator to serve three-year overlapping terms. In accordance with the Town Charter, the Commission:

- ❖ Considers all articles in Town Meeting Warrants and reports in print its advice, estimates, and recommendations to residents.
- ❖ Studies the financial and other affairs of the Town and advises with officers of the Town as to expenditures and recommendations for appropriations.

Preparations to address the articles and the two major budgets, municipal and school, actually commence in September each year. As a Commission, we educate new members through workshops and presentations made by various representatives in Town; monitor budgets approved at the previous Annual Town Meeting; and receive information on possible articles for the upcoming Town Meeting.

Beginning in January and continuing until early April, members of the Commission engage in a thorough review of all Town Meeting warrant articles. Each article sponsor comes before the Commission on at least two occasions and sometimes as often as four times to discuss their article.

The Finance Commission has scheduled two sets of public hearings devoted to discussing the important issues on which residents will vote at the May 2, 2011 Annual Town Meeting. These hearings are intended to provide residents the opportunity for public participation and input into matters facing our Town. At these meetings and during additional Finance Commission meetings, members of the Commission are apprised of the intent, background and details of each article. Through sponsor presentations, member questions and input received from the public, Commission members determine their position and formulate recommendations on the articles. Following public input, the Finance Commission may vote their recommendation(s) at the first public hearing or may do so at any of their regular meetings held during the month of March.

The Finance Commission urges your participation at our upcoming public hearings and at Town Meeting on May 2, 2011.



February 28, 2011 Schedule – 7:30 P.M.

1. Petition article seeking to change the zoning of a portion of the premises known and numbered as 529 High Street, Westwood, from Single Residence C to Local Business A.
(Petitioner: Edward Richardson, 67 Webster Street)
2. Accept Chapter 41, Section 19K of MA General Laws providing additional compensation for Town Clerk upon certification for completion of necessary courses of study and training.
(Town Clerk)
3. Home Rule Petition – Authorize the Board of Selectmen to petition the General Court to enact legislation recommended by the Government Study Task Force Committee for a revised Charter for the Town of Westwood.
(Government Study Task Force)

Planning Board Articles

4. Proposed Amendments to the Westwood Zoning Bylaw and Official Zoning Map related to the adoption of a new bylaw section entitled Open Space Residential Development (OSRD) to replace the existing bylaw Section 8.3, entitled Flexible Development, and the existing bylaw Section 8.4, entitled Fifty Percent Bonus.
5. Proposed Amendments to the Westwood Zoning Bylaw and Official Zoning Map related to the existing bylaw Section 8.5, entitled Senior Residential Development (SRD).
6. Proposed Amendments to the Westwood Zoning Bylaw and Official Zoning Map related to a new bylaw section entitled Flexible Multiple Use Overlay District (FMUOD), to replace the existing bylaw Section 9.5, entitled Planned Development Area Overlay District (PDAOD).
7. Proposed Amendment to the list of Designated Scenic Roads in Westwood to include Fox Hill Street and Thatcher Street.
8. Miscellaneous proposed Amendments to the Westwood Zoning Bylaw and Official Zoning Map.
9. Proposed Amendments to the Westwood Zoning Bylaw and Official Zoning Map considered housekeeping items.



March 1, 2011 Schedule – 7:30 P.M.

Board of Selectmen Articles

1. Road improvement.
2. Amend Town Bylaw, Chapter 30, Section 19, local licenses and permits, to reflect the correct reference to MA General Laws Chapter 40, Section 57 to be consistent with state law. Westwood's current Bylaw to withhold or rescind a license or permit issued by the Town to an individual or business entity that had not paid certain fees, taxes or other financial obligations to the Town for more than 90 days is inconsistent with state statute. MA General Law requires non-payment be due for a minimum of 12 months.
3. Adopt MA General Law Chapter 40, Section 58 to allow municipal fines/fees to become municipal charges lien. This article would adopt the state statute authorizing cities and towns to convert specific unpaid charges or fees into "Municipal Charges Lien."



4. Possible article(s) related to the reuse of the Colburn School (i.e., zoning amendment, lease of land or building, sale of land and/or building, etc.).
5. Submit a Home Rule Petition to adopt Chapter 138, Section 14 of MA General Laws which authorizes the issuance of one-day liquor licenses.
6. Accept easement for Hoover Avenue.
7. Accept conservation easement for Holbrook Farm.
8. Adopt "Stretch Code" – Westwood has applied for and received technical assistance to guide it through the process of being certified as a Green Community. Such certification provides access to grant funds for implementing energy saving measures which would reduce energy consumption and cost to the community. Adoption of the "Stretch Code" is one of five criteria that must all be met to be certified as a Green Community.
9. Possible articles providing the ability to proceed with a proposed development plan for the parcels originally proposed as Westwood Station. Redevelopment plans could require zoning amendments, adjustments to rights-of-way, or amendment of the tax increment financing agreement (TIF) and/or the I-Cubed Program.
10. Possible Westwood Station eminent domain takings.
11. Proposed Bylaw to require all parked vehicles be removed from public ways during a declared storm emergency and any said vehicle found in violation could be subject to fines and/or towing and vehicle storage at the owner's expense.
12. An article or articles that may be required to advance the Westwood Station project.
13. Miscellaneous (3).



Final Public Hearing

March 21, 2011

***March 22, 2011 – If business not finalized on March 21**

7:30 P.M.

Little Theatre, Westwood High School

In addition to the following articles, discussion will continue, if necessary, on articles presented at the earlier public hearing. The Finance Commission will vote its final recommendations on remaining articles at the completion of this hearing.

March 21 Schedule

Board of Selectmen Articles

1. Supplemental FY11 appropriations.
2. Rescind debt for cemetery garage.
3. Unpaid prior year's bills.
4. FY12 Town salary and expense budgets.
5. Appropriation – Brook Street culvert and/or Brookfield Road flood prevention projects.
6. Appropriation – municipal capital equipment/improvements.
7. Appropriation – school capital equipment/improvements.
8. Appropriation – sewer capital equipment/improvements.
9. Street acceptances (if any).



Mark Your Calendars Now!

Annual Town Meeting - May 2, 2011

Questions? Comments? Contact us:

☎(781)320-1029

Email: SNee@Townhall.Westwood.MA.US

Please Note:

The Town of Westwood accommodates the needs of all physically challenged or disabled people by reasonable means in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act. Please contact the Finance Commission office at (781)320-1029 to make your request known.