

# **Westwood Finance and Warrant Commission**

## **2016 Annual Town Meeting Warrant Article Summaries**

### **Schedule of Public Hearings**

**Monday, March 7, 2016**

**Monday, March 28, 2016**

**7:30 P.M.**

**Main Library Community Meeting Room**



In the event of severe weather, please check the Town of Westwood web site  
for weather related postponement information.  
[www.townhall.westwood.ma.us](http://www.townhall.westwood.ma.us)



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## Finance and Warrant Commission

Marianne LeBlanc Cummings, Chairman  
Craig Foscaldo, Vice Chairman

Paul Bierden	Peter Kane
Julianne Bride	Peter Lentz
Cynthia Buckley	Peter Neville
Barbara Delisle	Michael O'Hara
James Ferraro	Michael Powers
George Hertz	Robert Uek
	Margery Eramo Young

Jane O'Donnell, Administrator

### *A Message from Chairman Marianne LeBlanc Cummings*

As the Finance and Warrant Commission (Fincom) prepares for the 2016 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 Fincom 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 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 Fincom has scheduled two sets of public hearings devoted to discussing the important issues on which residents will vote at the May 2, 2016 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 Fincom 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 Fincom 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 Fincom urges your participation at our upcoming public hearings and at the Annual Town Meeting on May 2, 2016.



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**Monday, March 7, 2016 Schedule – 7:30 P.M.  
Main Library Community Meeting Room**

**If business is not finalized on March 7, the hearing will continue to  
Tuesday, March 8, at 7:30 P.M.**

**Petition Article**

**1. Dover Terrace**

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to take by eminent domain, for public safety purposes, pursuant to M.G.L.A chapter 79, a certain parcel of land shown as an extension of Dover Terrace on a “Plan of Birch Tree Drive”, E.W. Pilling, Engineer dated January 24, 1952, Book 3075, Page 402, being shown as Parcel 2 in a deed from Carol E. Chavetz to Shane Lawlor and Kathleen Lawlor on June 26, 2015 and recorded at the Norfolk County Registry of Deeds in Book 33252 at Page 539.

**(Petitioner: Ardtide Cassarino – 38 Dover Terrace)**

**Historic Commission Article**

**1. Historic Structure Demolition Bylaw**

The purpose of this Bylaw is to protect the historic and aesthetic resources of the Town of Westwood built on or before December 31, 1910 by surveying, researching, preserving, rehabilitating, or restoring whenever possible, buildings or structures which constitute or reflect distinctive features of the architectural, cultural, or historic resources of the Town, thereby promoting the public welfare and preserving the cultural heritage of Westwood.

**Board of Selectmen Articles**

**1. Street Acceptance(s)**

This standard article would present private roads - that have been constructed and/or brought up to the Town’s standards - for acceptance as a Town way.

**2. Road Improvement**

This is a standard article that authorizes the acceptance of any state funds, including Chapter 90 funds that are allocated for maintenance of the Town’s public ways.

**3. Accept Local Option Hotel Tax Increase**

This article is intended to adopt the local option provided by the Commonwealth to increase the Town’s current 4% hotel tax to a maximum of 6%.

**4. Land Taking by Eminent Domain**

This article is intended to serve as a placeholder for the Board of Selectmen for a possible land taking by eminent domain.

**5. Appropriate Free Cash to Specifically Reduce the Tax Rate**

This article is intended to appropriate an amount of free cash to lower the current tax rate and promote tax relief to all tax payers.

**6. Home Rule Petition to Appropriate Funds to the Aid to the Elderly Trust Fund for Relief**

This article is intended to ask the State through Home Rule Petition to authorize the Town to appropriate funds to the Aid to the Elderly and Disabled Tax Fund.



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**7. Gay Street/Route 109 Sidewalk Design**

This article is intended to seek funds to design a sidewalk along Gay Street and to design a sidewalk along Route 109 from Millbrook to Pond Street heading Westbound to be submitted as an application to the Complete Streets Program.

**8. Collection Bin Bylaw**

This article is intended to adopt a bylaw that would regulate unattended collection bins around Town through Special Permit.

**9. Police Station Headquarters Article(s)**

This article is intended to seek authorization to borrow the funds necessary to construct the Police Headquarters.

**10. Home Rule Petition to Enforce Fines for Double Poles**

This article is intended to seek authorization to file a Home Rule Petition that would allow the Town to issue fines against utility companies that do not remove wires, install new poles, or remove disconnected wires within a certain timeframe.

**11. Property Transfers in Islington**

This article is a placeholder in the event that one or more advantageous proposals are received which propose the transfer of town-owned land for private development in Islington.

**12. Home Rule Petition – Sale of Wine for Off-Premise Consumption at Farmer’s Market**

This article is intended to follow through on a Town Meeting approval to allow the sale of wine at the Farmer’s Market.

**13. Amendment of General Bylaw Section 321 [Retail Stores]**

This article is intended to approve certain amendments to the Westwood General Bylaw Section 321 [Retail Stores] to expand the application of the provisions of that bylaw from Retail uses to Retail, Restaurant and Service uses.

**14. Miscellaneous Articles (3 Total)**

These articles serves as placeholders to insert an Article in support of Town Government that may come up before the official Warrant is approve.



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## Planning Board Articles

### **1. Amendments Related to Senior Housing; Section 8.3 [Open Space Residential Development (OSRD)], Section 8.4 [Senior Residential Development (SRD)] and Section 8.5 [Residential Retirement Community (RRC)]**

To see if the Town will vote to approve certain amendments to the Westwood Zoning Bylaw related to Section 8.3 [Open Space Residential Development (OSRD)], Section 8.4 [Senior Residential Development (SRD)], and Section 8.5 [Residential Retirement Community (RRC)].

### **2. Amendments to Allow Outdoor Seating as an Accessory Use; Section 4.3.1 [Table of Accessory Use]**

To see if the Town will vote to approve certain amendments to the Westwood Zoning Bylaw to allow outdoor seating as an allowed accessory use for non-residential uses by adding a new use category to Section 4.3.1 [Table of Accessory Uses].

### **3. Amendments Related to Calculating the Required Affordable Units; Section 9.5.14 [Housing Affordable Requirements], Section 8.4 [Senior Residential Development], Section 8.3 [Open Space Residential Development] and Section 9.7 [University Avenue Mixed Use District]**

To see if the Town will vote to approve certain amendments to the Westwood Zoning Bylaw to further define how to calculate the required number of affordable housing units in Section 9.5.14 [Housing Affordable Requirements] in the Flexible Multiple Use Overlay District, Section 8.4 [Senior Residential Development], Section 8.3 [Open Space Residential Development], and Section 9.7 [University Avenue Mixed Use District].

### **4. Amendments to Allow Administrative Review for Minor Alterations of Existing Wireless Facilities; New Section 9.4.5.5**

To see if the Town will vote to approve certain amendments to the Westwood Zoning Bylaw to add a new Section 9.4.5.5 under Permits Required in the Wireless Communications Overlay District to allow Administrative Wireless Communication Overlay District Environmental Impact and Design Review (WCOD-EIDR) Approval pursuant to Section 7.3.6 for minor changes of existing wireless facilities already permitted and installed.

### **5. Amendments Related to Joint Off-Street Parking**

To see if the Town will vote to approve certain amendments to the Westwood Zoning Bylaw Section 6.1 related to joint off-street parking.

### **6. Housekeeping Amendments**

To see if the Town will vote to approve general housekeeping amendments to various sections of the Westwood Zoning Bylaw and Official Zoning Map as may be necessary to correct any errors or inconsistencies and to clarify such sections, including but without limitations to the correction of one or more section references, and the correction of a scribe's error in Section 4.1.6.1 [Earth Material Movement per Section 7.1] to properly show said use is allowed by special permit from the Planning Board in all zoning districts.

### **7. Amendments to Project Area in the FMUOD**

To see if the Town will vote to make certain amendments to the Westwood Zoning Bylaw Section 9.5.9.1 [Minimum Project Area] under the Flexible Multiple Use Overlay District (FMUOD-1) also known as University Avenue Business District from 30 acres to 10 acres and to further define the minimum project area in the FMUOD.



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**Final Public Hearing**

**Monday, March 28, 2016  
7:30 P.M.**

**Main Library Community Meeting Room**

**If business is not finalized on March 28, the hearing will continue to  
Tuesday, March 29 at 7:30 P.M.**

In addition to the following articles, discussion will continue, if necessary, on articles presented at the March 7 public hearing. The Finance and Warrant Commission will vote its final recommendations on remaining articles at the completion of this hearing.

**1. Supplemental Appropriations FY16**

This article is intended to transfer funds from budget accounts that have a surplus into accounts that are projected to be in deficit by the end of the fiscal year.

**2. Supplemental Appropriations FY16**

This article is intended to cover any projected budget deficits with funds from other available accounts which include, but are not limited to, any remaining Free Cash and Reserve Funds or other available accounts, such as ambulance revenue, reserved state aid, budget surplus, etc.

**3. Unpaid Prior Year's Bills**

This article is reserved to consider payment of any unpaid bills remaining from a closed out fiscal year. Once a fiscal year is closed in July, any bill that is subsequently submitted from that year is considered an unpaid bill which requires a 9/10 Town Meeting vote authorizing its payment.

**4. FY17 Salary and Expense Budgets**

This article seeks official approval of the Annual Operating Budget for the upcoming fiscal year.

**5. Appropriations (\$ -) – Municipal Capital**

This article is intended to appropriate funds for the Town's municipal capital investments for the next fiscal year.

**6. Appropriations (\$ -) – School Capital**

This article is intended to appropriate funds for the Town's school capital investments for the next fiscal year.

**7. Appropriations (\$ -) – Sewer Capital Improvements**

This article is intended to appropriate funds for the Town's sewer capital investments for the next fiscal year. The items in this article are funded from Sewer User fees.

**8. Appropriations (\$ -) – Other Capital Improvements**

This article is intended to appropriate funds for the Town's other Capital Improvements not captured in the above articles for the next fiscal year.

**9. Appropriations (\$ -) – to Stabilization Fund – FY17**

This article is intended to appropriate funds into the Town's Stabilization Account.

**10. Appropriation to OPEB Liability Trust Fund – FY17**

This article is intended to appropriate funds into the OPEB Liability Trust Account.

**11. Appropriation to Capital Stabilization Fund**

This article is intended to appropriate funds, primarily unappropriated revenue, to the Capital Stabilization fund established to accumulate funds to be allocated for future capital investments.



**Mark Your Calendars Now!**

**Annual Town Meeting – Monday, May 2, 2016**

Questions? Comments? Contact us:

☎ 781.314.1994

Email: [jodonnell@townhall.westwood.ma.us](mailto:jodonnell@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 and Warrant Commission office at 781.314.1994 to make your request known.

**FINANCE COMMISSION**



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