

**Town of Westwood**  
Commonwealth of Massachusetts

David L. Atkins, Jr., Chair  
Christopher A. Pfaff, Vice Chair  
Deborah J. Conant  
Robert R. Gotti



Abigail McCabe, AICP, Town Planner  
[amccabe@townhall.westwood.ma.us](mailto:amccabe@townhall.westwood.ma.us)  
(781) 251-2581

Karyn Flynn, Land Use & Licensing Specialist  
[kflynn@townhall.westwood.ma.us](mailto:kflynn@townhall.westwood.ma.us)  
(781) 767-6344

**PLANNING BOARD**

**Memorandum**

To: Members of the Select Board

From: Abby McCabe, Town Planner

Date: December 16, 2020

Re: Planning Board Warrant Article Submission Request for Annual Town Meeting 2021

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At a meeting of the Planning Board on December 15, 2020, the Planning Board requested the following four warrant article be considered for the Annual Town Meeting warrant for 2021.

**Article 1** – **Temporary Uses and Structures** – Certain zoning amendments related to Section 4.1.7.4 [Table of Uses] of the Zoning Bylaw to allow uses and structures on a short term temporary basis by administrative approval from the Building Commissioner under certain conditions. Presently, temporary uses are only allowed upon issuance of a special permit from the Zoning Board of Appeals. The intended purpose is to provide an alternative process for proposals shorter than the current three-four-month process.

**Article 2** - **Zoning Amendments Relative to Fire Arms** - Certain zoning amendments relative to the Table of Uses 4.1 for Fire Arms/Explosives Sales and Services (Section 4.1.5.41). The Board wishes to re-submit the article submitted for Annual Town Meeting 2020, which proposes prohibiting Fire Arms and Explosives Sales in the Local Business A & Local Business B (LBA & LBB) zoning districts. Presently this use is allowed by Special Permit from the Zoning Board of Appeals in the LBA, LBB, Industrial (I), and Highway (HB) zones. Fire Arms will continue to be allowed in the I and HB zones. The intended purpose is to prohibit uses that don't generate the desirable foot traffic in the village business districts.

**Article 3** - **Zoning Text & Map Amendments Relative to Medical Uses** Certain zoning amendments related to various medical uses. The Board wishes to amend various sections of the Zoning Bylaw, including but not limited to Section 2.0 [Definitions] and Section 4.1.2 [Table of Principal Uses], and also wishes to amend the Official Zoning Map. The purpose of this article is to clarify distinctions among various types of medical uses and to specify where those uses may be permitted in Town. The Zoning Bylaw presently references differing terms for

medical uses, some of which are not clearly defined and some of which are not presently included in the Use Table, including the terms “Office of Health Care Professional”, “Hospital”, “Medical Center or Clinic”, and “Substance Rehabilitation or Treatment Facility”. The purpose is to clearly regulate where these uses can and cannot go to eliminate any future challenges from these proposed uses.

**Article 4 - Housekeeping – Zoning Article** - To see if the Town will vote to approve certain housekeeping amendments to various sections of the Westwood Zoning Bylaw and Official Zoning Map as necessary to correct errors or inconsistencies and to clarify such sections.