

Westwood Finance and Warrant Commission

2015 Annual Town Meeting Warrant Article Summaries

Schedule of Public Hearings

March 2, 2015

March 23, 2015

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



Finance and Warrant Commission

Marianne LeBlanc Cummings, Chairman
Craig Foscaldo, Vice Chairman

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

Sheila Nee, Administrator

A Message from Chairman Marianne LeBlanc Cummings

As the Finance and Warrant Commission (Fincom) prepares for the 2015 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 4, 2015 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 4, 2015.



**March 2, 2015 Schedule – 7:30 P.M.
Main Library**

**If business is not finalized on March 2, the hearing will continue to
March 3 at 7:30 P.M.**

1. FY16 School and Municipal operating budgets.

Petition Articles

2. This petition article would require the Town to establish a baseline and ongoing energy score for all municipal and school buildings.
(Petitioner: Michael Brier, 43 Dover Terrace)
3. This petition article seeks to change the zoning of the premises known as Lambert's Plaza at 210-320 Providence Highway from Single Residence B (SRB) to Highway Business (HB).
(Petitioner: Edward Richardson, 67 Webster Street)

Town Clerk Article

4. Adoption of Chapter 59, Section 18B MGL – Informing Electorate
This article is intended to allow the Town governing authority to disseminate written information on the local ballot questions.

Board of Selectmen Articles

1. Road Improvement
Intended to authorize the acceptance of any state funds, including Chapter 90 funds that are allocated for maintenance of the Town's public ways.
2. Street Acceptances
This is an article that accepts private roads that have been constructed and/or brought up to the Town's standards and are presented for acceptance as Town ways.
3. Fund University Station Building Fee Reserve
Intended to accept building permit fee payments from the first phase of the University Station project, and allocate these funds to the appropriate services related to permitting, inspection, legal valuation, and other prior, during, and after construction.
4. Cemetery Expansion
Intended to seek approval and funding to design and construct an expansion of the Baker Cemetery.
5. Stormwater Management Bylaw
Intended to seek Town Meeting vote for the adoption of a proposed Stormwater Bylaw and Regulations.
6. Funding for Fire Station II
Intended to fund the construction of a new Fire Station in Islington Center.



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7. Funding for Additional Design Work
Intended to appropriate funds that might be necessary for design work to be completed for the Public Safety Facilities.
 8. Acquisition of Real Property
Intended to serve as a placeholder to appropriate funds and approve the acquisition of property and/or easements that may be necessary for the construction of the Public Safety Facilities.
 9. Miscellaneous Public Safety Facilities
Intended to serve as a placeholder for any necessary Town Meeting action that supports the design and/or construction and/or planning for the renovations of the Public Safety Facilities.
 10. Town-wide LED Streetlight Upgrade
Intended to seek authorization and funding for a program to upgrade the energy efficiency of the street lights in Town.
 11. Deerfield School Field Redevelopment
Intended to authorize the Board of Selectmen to accept and expend up to \$500,000 to fund the reconstruction of the Deerfield School playing fields.
 12. Creation of a Bylaw for Enforcement of Taxi Regulations
Intended to allow the Police Department to issue a civil disposition rather than file a court complaint for violators of the taxi regulations.
 13. Miscellaneous Articles (4 total)
Intended to serve as placeholders to insert an Article in support of Town Government that may come up before the official Warrant is approved.

Planning Board Articles

1. Amendments to Flexible Multiple Use Overlay District
Intended to allow for mixed-use residential and commercial developments in Flexible Multiple Use Districts along Washington and High Streets, to redefine the perimeters of those FMUOD districts on the Official Zoning Map, and to clarify the maximum permitted percentages of FMUOD developments which may be devoted to residential uses in each of the FMUOD districts.
2. Amendments to Senior Residential Housing Development
Intended to create a new procedure for the review and approval of special permit applications for Senior Residential Development projects, and to encourage the development of appropriately designed projects which are both responsive to the needs of senior residents and consistent with the character of surrounding neighborhoods.
3. Amendments to Accessory Apartments
Intended to clarify the section of the Zoning Bylaw pertaining to Accessory Apartments in response to concerns expressed by the Zoning Board of Appeals, so that applicants and abutters will have a better understanding of the purposes and requirements of this section.



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4. Amendments to Earth Material Movement
Intended to make the Planning Board the special granting authority for Earth Material Movement special permits and to clarify the conditions under which an exemption from this section of the Zoning Bylaw may be granted.
 5. Amendments to Definitions and Principal Uses
Intended to clarify certain terms and use definitions and to adopt new definitions for uses not properly addressed in the current Zoning Bylaw and to designate those zoning districts in which the newly defined uses may be permitted.
 6. Amendments to Enclosure, Screening, and Buffers
Intended to clarify requirements for screening of parking areas designed to accommodate more than five cars in residential districts.
 7. Amendments to Height Regulations
Intended to bring the Zoning Bylaw requirements for height of structures into conformance with applicable requirements set forth in the current Building Code.
 8. Proposed General Bylaw Related to Demolition Delay (co-sponsor Westwood Historical Commission)
Intended to implement the Comprehensive Plan objective which recommends the adoption of a demolition delay period to allow for the consideration of various preservation alternatives for properties deemed to be of significant historical value to the Town.
 9. Housekeeping Amendments
Intended to allow for corrections of minor errors or inconsistencies within the Zoning Bylaw which might come to light during the review of proposed amendments.
 10. Miscellaneous Zoning Article
Intended to revise the Street Access Special Permit bylaw section adopted by the November 17, 2014 Town meeting in the event that the adopted section is not approved by the Attorney General's Office.



Final Public Hearing

**March 23, 2015
7:30 P.M.
Main Library**

**If business is not finalized on March 23, the hearing will continue to
March 24 at 7:30 P.M.**

In addition to the following articles, discussion will continue, if necessary, on articles presented at the March 2 public hearing. The Finance and Warrant Commission will vote its final recommendations on remaining articles at the completion of this hearing.

1. Supplemental Appropriations FY15
Intended to transfer funds from budget accounts projected to have a surplus into accounts that are projected to be in deficit by the end of the fiscal year.
2. Supplemental Appropriations FY15
Intended to cover any projected deficits with funds from available accounts in the current fiscal year.
3. Unpaid Prior Year's Bills
Reserved to consider payment of any unpaid bills remaining from a closed out fiscal year.
4. FY16 Town Salary and Expense Budgets
The official approval of the Annual Operating Budget for the upcoming fiscal year.
5. Appropriation – Municipal Capital Improvements
Intended to appropriate funds for the Town's municipal capital investments for the next fiscal year.
6. Appropriation – School Capital Improvements
Intended to appropriate funds for the Town's school capital investments for the next fiscal year.
7. Appropriation – Sewer Capital Improvements
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. Appropriation – Other Capital Improvements
Intended to appropriate funds for the Town's other capital improvements not captured in the above articles for the next fiscal year.
9. Appropriation – Stabilization Fund FY16
Intended to appropriate funds into the Town's Stabilization Account.
10. Appropriation – OPEB Liability Trust Fund FY16
Intended to appropriate funds to the OPEB Liability account.



Mark Your Calendars Now!

Annual Town Meeting – May 4, 2015

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 and Warrant Commission office at (781)320-1029 to make your request known.