

**TOWN OF WILLIAMSTOWN  
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING  
FISCAL YEAR  
JULY 1, 2020 to JUNE 30, 2021  
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS**

Berkshire, ss:

To either of the Constables of the Town of Williamstown, in the County of Berkshire.

**GREETING:**

In the name of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, you are hereby directed to notify and warn the Inhabitants of the Town of Williamstown qualified to vote in elections and Town affairs to meet at Farley-Lamb Field in the Weston Athletic Complex, Latham and Meacham Streets, in said Williamstown on TUESDAY, THE EIGHTEENTH DAY OF AUGUST 2020 AT SEVEN O'CLOCK P.M. for the following purpose:

To act on all Articles of this warrant.

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**REPORTS OF TOWN COMMITTEES**

***Consent***

**Article 1.** To see if the Town will vote to accept the reports of the Select Board, the Town Manager, and all other officers and committees, and act thereon.

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**TO APPLY UNRESERVED FUND BALANCE TO REDUCE THE TAX RATE**

***Consent***

**Article 2.** To see if the Town will vote to transfer and appropriate the sum of \$250,000 from the General Fund Unreserved Fund Balance to reduce the tax rate, or take any other action in relation thereto.

**The Finance Committee unanimously recommends the Town vote to transfer and appropriate the sum of \$250,000 from the General Fund Unreserved Fund Balance to reduce the tax rate.**

**The Select Board unanimously recommends the adoption of this article.**

*The Town customarily applies excess receipts and unused appropriations of the previous fiscal year (Unreserved Fund Balance a/k/a "Free Cash") to reduce the tax rate.*

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**APPROPRIATION FOR DEBT SERVICE**

***Consent***

**Article 3.** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or appropriate from available funds, the sum of \$691,488 or any other sum, to pay interest and maturing debt, or take any other action in relation thereto.

<i>Purpose</i>	<i>Year Borrowed</i>	<i>Years Left</i>	<i>Total Payment Balance end of FY2020</i>	<i>FY2021 Principal and Interest</i>
Elementary School	2005	5	\$1,055,600	<b>\$225,700</b>
Police Station	2018	18	\$6,152,150	<b>\$341,488</b>
Cable Mills	2015	5	\$589,600	<b>\$124,300</b>

The Finance Committee unanimously recommends the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$250,400 from taxation, \$124,300 be appropriated from the Community Preservation Fund and \$316,788 be appropriated from the Unreserved Fund balance.

The Community Preservation Committee unanimously recommends the adoption of this article.

The Select Board unanimously recommends the adoption of this article.

Each of the above items is a bond issue the Town has committed to repay over the number of years remaining as indicated.

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**CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM**  
**Consent**

**Article 4.** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, or appropriate from available funds, the sum of \$1,165,200 or any other sum, for the following capital expenditures, or take any other action in relation thereto.

<i>Item</i>	<i>Department</i>	<i>Amount</i>
Hoxsey Street-Mill & Pave	Highway	\$64,200
Baxter Road-Mill/Overlay/Curbing	Highway	\$49,000
Longview Terrace-Mill/Overlay/Curbing	Highway	\$149,000
Buxton Hill Road-Mill/Overlay	Highway	\$82,000
International Single Axle Dump Truck	Highway	\$180,000
Repair Rotted Windows	Library	\$35,000
<b>Subtotal</b>		<b>\$559,200</b>
Inflow & Infiltration Reduction	Sewer	\$300,000
Ford F150 4x4 (50%)	Sewer	\$23,000
Ford Transit Connect Van	Sewer	\$33,000
South Street Street Sewer Replacement	Sewer	\$107,000
Rebuild Rear Boom (50%)	Sewer	\$10,000
<b>Subtotal</b>		<b>\$473,000</b>
Hoxsey St Water Main Replacement	Water	\$100,000
Ford F150 4x4 (50%)	Water	\$23,000
Rebuild Rear Boom (50%)	Water	\$10,000
<b>Subtotal</b>		<b>\$133,000</b>
<b>Total Capital</b>		<b>\$1,165,200</b>

**The Finance Committee unanimously recommends the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$379,200 from taxation, that \$180,000 be transferred from the Stabilization Fund, that \$473,000 be transferred from Estimated Sewer Receipts and that \$133,000 be transferred from Estimated Water Receipts.**

**The Select Board unanimously recommends the adoption of this article.**

*Highway Department and Library items are funded by the property tax. Sewer and Water Department items are funded by user fees. The \$180,000 transfer from Stabilization Fund for the cost of the Highway Department dump truck requires a  $\frac{2}{3}$  vote.*

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**SEWER DEPARTMENT  
Consent**

**Article 5.** To see if the Town will vote to appropriate from Estimated Sewer Receipts the sum of \$1,113,039 or any other sum, to pay interest and maturing debt, and for charges, expenses and outlays of the Sewer Department, or take any other action in relation thereto.

**The Finance Committee unanimously recommends the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$726,356 from Estimated Sewer Receipts and the sum of \$386,683 from Sewer Fund Unreserved Fund Balance.**

**The Select Board unanimously recommends the adoption of this article.**

*The sewer rate will remain unchanged from the previous year. The Sewer Department is an Enterprise Fund. All expenses related to the operation of the department are paid by user fees rather than taxation.*

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**WATER DEPARTMENT  
Consent**

**Article 6.** To see if the Town will vote to appropriate from Estimated Water Receipts the sum of \$923,831 or any other sum, to pay interest and maturing debt, and for charges, expenses and outlays of the Water Department, or take any other action in relation thereto.

**The Finance Committee unanimously recommends the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$816,629 from Estimated Water Receipts and the sum of \$107,202 from Water Fund Unreserved Fund Balance.**

**The Select Board unanimously recommends the adoption of this article.**

*The water rate will remain unchanged. The Water Department is an Enterprise Fund. All expenses of the Department are paid by user fees, not taxation.*

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**WATER RATE**  
***Consent***

**Article 7.** To see if the Town will, in accordance with § 7, Chapter 606 of the Acts and Resolves of 1941, vote to approve a municipal water rate of \$3.70 per 100 cubic feet of water as fixed by the Select Board at their meeting of March 9, 2020 to be effective July 1, 2020, or take any other action in relation thereto.

**The Finance Committee unanimously recommends the Town vote to approve a municipal water rate of \$3.70 per 100 cubic feet.**

**The Select Board unanimously recommends the adoption of this article.**

*This is unchanged from the previous year.*

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**TRANSFER STATION DEPARTMENT**  
***Consent***

**Article 8.** To see if the Town will vote to appropriate from Estimated Transfer Station Receipts or other available funds the sum of \$239,955 or any other sum, to pay interest and maturing debt, and for charges, expenses and outlays of the Transfer Station Department, or take any other action in relation thereto.

**The Finance Committee unanimously recommends the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$234,955 from Estimated Transfer Station Receipts and \$5,000 from Transfer Station Unreserved Fund Balance.**

**The Select Board unanimously recommends the adoption of this article.**

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**CHAPTER 90 HIGHWAY FUNDS**  
***Consent***

**Article 9.** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate from Chapter 90 funds that are, or may become, available to the Town during the fiscal year for Capital Projects, and to authorize the Treasurer to borrow such amounts in anticipation of reimbursement by the Commonwealth, or take any other action in relation thereto.

**The Finance Committee unanimously recommends the adoption of this article.**

**The Select Board unanimously recommends the adoption of this article.**

*Chapter 90 funds are distributed by the State for approved highway projects. The Town is required to spend the money before being reimbursed by the state. Since the Town cannot spend money it does not have, this article authorizes the Treasurer to borrow money in anticipation of receiving the Chapter 90 reimbursement from the Commonwealth.*

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**FINANCE COMMITTEE RESERVE FUND**

***Consent***

**Article 10.** To see if the Town will vote to transfer from the General Fund Unreserved Fund Balance the sum of \$150,000 for the Finance Committee Reserve Fund, or take any other action in relation thereto.

**The Finance Committee unanimously recommends the Town vote to transfer the sum of \$150,000 from Unreserved Fund Balance for the Finance Committee Reserve Fund.**

**The Select Board unanimously recommends the adoption of this article.**

*The Reserve Fund is established under G.L. c. 40 § 6 to provide for extraordinary or unforeseen expenditures authorized by the Finance Committee.*

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**TO FUND OTHER POST EMPLOYMENT BENEFITS**

***Consent***

**Article 11.** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or appropriate from available funds the sum of \$40,000 to the Other Post Employment Benefits Liability Trust Fund, established under the provisions of M.G.L. Chapter 32B, Section 20, or take any other action in relation thereto.

**The Finance Committee unanimously recommends the Town vote to transfer the sum of \$33,763 from Unreserved Fund Balance; that \$3,341 be appropriated from Estimated Water Receipts; that \$2,376 be appropriated from Estimated Sewer Receipts; and that \$520 be appropriated from Estimated Transfer Station Receipts to the OPEB Trust Fund.**

**The Select Board unanimously recommends the adoption of this article.**

*Last year's appropriation of \$50,000 continued the process to put the Town on a pay-as-you-go basis for Other Post-Employment Benefits, primarily health insurance for retirees. This funding is important to maintain our Aa1 bond rating.*

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**APPROPRIATION TO COMPENSATED BALANCES RESERVE FUND**

***Consent***

**Article 12.** To see if the Town will vote to transfer from the General Fund Unreserved Fund Balance the sum of \$150,000 to the Compensated Balances Reserve Fund, established under the provisions of M.G.L. Chapter 40, Section 13D, or take any other action in relation thereto.

**The Finance Committee unanimously recommends the Town vote to transfer the sum of \$150,000 from Unreserved Fund Balance to Compensated Balances Reserve Fund.**

**The Select Board unanimously recommends the adoption of this article.**

*This appropriation sets aside funds to meet our legal obligation to pay accrued employee benefits upon separation from the Town’s employment.*

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**REVOLVING FUND SPENDING LIMIT**  
***Consent***

**Article 13.** To see if the Town will vote to set annual spending limits for revolving funds for the Fiscal Year July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021, under the provisions of Massachusetts General Law chapter 44, §53E½.

<b>Revolving Fund</b>	<b>Authorized to Expend</b>	<b>Revenue Source</b>	<b>Use of Fund</b>	<b>Spending Limit</b>
Inspection Services	Building Commissioner	Inspection Fees: Gas, Plumbing, Electrical	Salaries/ Expenses	\$75,000
Public Library	Library Trustees	Fees and Fines	Supplies, Services and Equipment	\$25,000

**The Finance Committee unanimously recommends the adoption of this article.**

**The Select Board unanimously recommends the adoption of this article.**

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**NORTHERN BERKSHIRE VOCATIONAL REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
***Consent***

**Article 14.** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, or appropriate from available funds, the sum of \$274,522 or any other sum, being Williamstown’s share of the Northern Berkshire Vocational Regional School District FY21 budget, or take any other action in relation thereto.

**The Finance Committee unanimously recommends the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$274,522 from taxation.**

**The Select Board unanimously recommends the adoption of this article.**

Note: This is an Omnibus Budget, i.e. Town Meeting may vote only a total amount.

	<i>FY2020</i>	<i>FY2021</i>
Minimum Contribution/Assessment	\$303,813	\$254,834
Transportation Assessment	\$7,425	\$4,719
Capital Assessment	\$12,073	\$14,968

<b>Total</b>	<b>\$323,311</b>	<b>\$274,522</b>
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*The Williamstown assessment is a 15% decrease from FY20. Williamstown enrollment is 16 students compared to 20 last year.*

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**WILLIAMSTOWN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**

***Consent***

**Article 15.** To see if the Town will vote pursuant to M.G.L. Chapter 40, Section 6A to raise and appropriate the sum of \$45,332 for the Williamstown Chamber of Commerce to advertise the Town's resources, advantages, and attractions, or take any other action in relation thereto.

**The Finance Committee unanimously recommends the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$45,332 for the Williamstown Chamber of Commerce.**

**The Select Board unanimously recommends the adoption of this article.**

*The appropriation for the Chamber of Commerce is intended to promote tourism.*

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**WILLIAMSTOWN YOUTH CENTER**

***Consent***

**Article 16.** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$77,000 for the Williamstown Youth Center to provide youth recreation services, or take any other action in relation thereto.

**The Finance Committee unanimously recommends the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$77,000 to support the Williamstown Youth Center.**

**The Select Board unanimously recommends the adoption of this article.**

*The Youth Center appropriation is unchanged from the current year.*

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**SAND SPRINGS RECREATIONAL CENTER**

***Consent***

**Article 17.** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$9,000 for the Sand Springs Recreational Center to provide swimming and recreation services for Williamstown residents, or take any other action in relation thereto.

**The Finance Committee recommends by a vote of 8 - 1 the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$9,000 to support Sand Springs Recreational Center.**

**The Select Board unanimously recommends the adoption of this article.**

*This appropriation is reduced from the current year and anticipates providing community benefit for the 2021 season through June 30, 2021.*

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**GENERAL GOVERNMENT**

**Article 18.** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or appropriate from available funds, the sum of \$8,187,054.71 or any other sum, to pay interest and maturing debt, and for charges, expenses and outlays of the several Town Departments, namely:

**The Finance Committee unanimously recommends the Town vote to raise and appropriate \$7,965,860.71 from taxation; that \$117,081 be appropriated from Estimated Water Receipts; that \$82,219 be appropriated from Estimated Sewer Receipts; that \$9,000 be appropriated from Cemetery Perpetual Care Trust Fund; and that \$12,894 be appropriated from the Sherman Burbank Memorial Trust.**

**The Select Board unanimously recommends the adoption of this article.**

*The General Government appropriation is a 0.31% increase over the current year. This is anticipated to be allocated with \$310,203.95 to Executive Departments, \$3,139,534.21 to Administration and Finance, \$431,390.57 to Community Development, \$1,428,377.75 to Public Safety, \$2,007,703.71 to Public Works and \$878,844.52 to Human Services.*

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**MOUNT GREYLOCK REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**Article 19.** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, or appropriate from available funds, the sum of \$12,113,423 or any other sum, being Williamstown’s share of the Mount Greylock Regional School District FY21 budget, or take any other action in relation thereto.

Note: This is an Omnibus Budget, i.e. Town Meeting may vote only a total amount.

	<i>FY2020</i>	<i>FY2021</i>
Operating Assessment	\$10,750,110	\$10,801,659
Capital Assessment	\$1,363,654	\$1,311,764
<b>Total Assessment</b>	<b>\$12,113,764</b>	<b>\$12,113,423</b>

**The Finance Committee unanimously recommends the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$12,113,423 from taxation.**

**The Select Board unanimously recommends the adoption of this article.**

*The Williamstown assessment is a combined budget of the Elementary School and Mt. Greylock High School due to regionalization. It reflects a minimal decrease compared to FY20. The capital assessment includes debt repayment for the high school renovation as approved in March 2016, and excluded from the levy limit. This bond was for a term of 30 years and in FY21, Williamstown is responsible for 69.10% of annual payment. The portion of operating assessment attributable to Williamstown Elementary School is*



\$5,149,971 and the portion attributable to Mount Greylock Regional School is \$5,651,688.

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### **BROADBAND STUDY**

**Article 20.** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$85,000** for the purposes of paying costs associated with undertaking a study of the feasibility of expansion of broadband service including market conditions, cost, operations, and technical considerations, or take any other action in relation thereto.

**The Finance Committee unanimously recommends the adoption of this article.**

**The Board of Selectmen recommends the adoption of this article by a vote of 4-1.**

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### **MUNICIPAL LIGHT PLANT**

**Article 21.** To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to take all necessary and appropriate action to establish and to maintain, in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 164 of the General Laws and in accordance with the rules, regulations and orders of the Department of Public Utilities and the Department of Telecommunications & Cable, a municipal lighting plant for all purposes allowable under the laws of the Commonwealth, including without limitation the operation of a telecommunication system and any related services, or to take any other action relative thereto.

*This is the first step of a multi-meeting approval process. A Municipal Light Plant is the form of government organization used by towns that provide their own broadband service. If Williamstown decides that entering this market is viable and appropriate, then a subsequent Town Meeting will be asked for the second enabling vote to create the Light Plant. Further action by future Town Meeting would be necessary to fund and organize such an operation if it were to be approved. A second meeting to consider this article cannot happen sooner than two months from now and no longer than thirteen months from now.*

*This is a **ballot vote** and requires  $\frac{2}{3}$  voting in the affirmative.*

**The Board of Selectmen unanimously recommends the adoption of this article.**

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### **COMMUNITY PRESERVATION – COMMITTEE EXPENSES**

**Article 22.** To see if the Town will vote to hear and act on the report of the Community Preservation Committee on the Fiscal Year 2020 Community Preservation budget, and to appropriate from the Community Preservation Fund FY 2021 estimated annual revenues the sum of \$5,000 to meet the administrative expenses of the Community Preservation Committee for Fiscal Year 2021 or take any other action in relation thereto.

**The Community Preservation Committee unanimously recommends the adoption of this article.**

**The Finance Committee unanimously recommends the adoption of this article.**

**The Select Board unanimously recommends the adoption of this article.**

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**COMMUNITY PRESERVATION – AFFORDABLE HOUSING**

**Article 23.** To see if the Town will vote to appropriate from the Community Preservation Fund FY 2020 estimated annual revenues, for affordable housing purposes, under the Community Preservation Act, the sum of \$75,000 to fund a grant to the Williamstown Affordable Housing Trust in unrestricted funds for initiatives and programs related to furthering affordable housing in Williamstown and recommended by the Community Preservation Committee, and to authorize the Town Manager to enter into a grant agreement with the organization upon such terms and conditions as may be appropriate, or take any other action in relation thereto.

**The Community Preservation Committee unanimously recommends the adoption of this article.**

**The Finance Committee unanimously recommends the adoption of this article.**

**The Select Board unanimously recommends the adoption of this article.**

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**COMMUNITY PRESERVATION – RECREATION**

**Article 24.** To see if the Town will vote to appropriate from the Community Preservation Fund FY 2021 estimated annual revenues, for recreation purposes, under the Community Preservation Act, the sum of **\$34,800**, which funds shall revert to the CPA fund if not expended by June 30, 2021, to fund a grant to Sand Springs Recreational Center for building an accessory structure with ADA compliant bathrooms and a check-in station in accordance with the application submitted to and recommended by the Community Preservation Committee, and to authorize the Town Manager to enter into a grant agreement with the organization upon such terms and conditions as may be appropriate and to authorize the Select Board to accept property interests as may be appropriate, or take any other action in relation thereto.

**The Community Preservation Committee unanimously recommends the adoption of this article.**

**The Finance Committee unanimously recommends the adoption of this article.**

**The Select Board unanimously recommends the adoption of this article.**

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**COMMUNITY PRESERVATION – RECREATION**

**Article 25.** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or appropriate from available funds, for recreation purposes, the sum of **\$75,000**, to fund a grant to the Town of Williamstown to conduct a study of potential sites and feasibility for new recreation fields in accordance with the application submitted to and recommended by

the Community Preservation Committee, and to authorize the Select Board to accept property interests as may be appropriate, or take any other action in relation thereto.

**The Finance Committee unanimously recommends the Town vote to appropriate \$25,000 from the Unreserved Fund balance and that \$50,000 be appropriated from the Community Preservation Fund.**

**The Community Preservation Committee recommends the adoption of this article by a vote of 8 - 0 - 1.**

**The Select Board unanimously recommends the adoption of this article.**

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### **BIKE PATH**

**Article 26:** To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to acquire, by purchase, gift and/or eminent domain and on such terms and conditions as the Select Board deems appropriate, the fee to and/or permanent and temporary easements in, on and under the parcels of land located on Cole Avenue, Stetson Road, and North Street and shown on a plan of land entitled “Plan of Easements to be Acquired by the Town of Williamstown, Williamstown, Massachusetts Berkshire County”, dated November 22, 2019, prepared by Greenman-Pedersen, Inc., a copy of which is on file with the Town Clerk, as said plan may be amended, for recreational trail purposes, including, without limitation, for the construction, installation, inspection, improvement, maintenance, repair, replacement and/or relocation of trails, rights of way, access ways, sidewalks, ramps, drainage, utilities, slope, grading, landscaping, and construction, and for any and all other uses and purposes incidental or related thereto; and to transfer for and/or dedicate to the foregoing purposes in perpetuity those portions of the Town-owned parcels of land shown on said plan as “Parcel BP-6” through and including “Parcel BP-9”, “Parcel TWLR-4”, “Parcel TWLR-5,” “Parcel TWLR-7”, and “Parcel TWLR-8”, and any other permanent easement areas as may be shown on said plan; and, further, to authorize the Select Board to enter into all agreements and execute any and all instruments as may be necessary or convenient to effectuate the foregoing purposes; or to take any other action relative thereto.

**The Select Board unanimously recommends the adoption of this article.**

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### **TRANSFER OF LAND TO THE CONSERVATION COMMISSION FOR ENDANGERED PLANT PROTECTION**

**Article 27:** To see if the Town will vote to transfer from the Select Board for the purpose of conveyance to the Conservation Commission for conservation and passive recreation purposes under G.L. c. 40, §8C, the care, custody and control of the parcel of land shown on Assessors Map 110 as Parcel 18, containing 7.1 acres, more or less, and being a portion of the premises described in an instrument recorded with the Berkshire (North) District Registry of Deeds in Book 1302, Page 1019, which parcel shall be dedicated to the foregoing purposes in perpetuity and be subject to the provisions of Article 97 of the Massachusetts Constitution, or take any other action in relation thereto.

*This is a requirement for the development of the bike path to maintain an area of state protected plant. This article will add land previously held by the town received from the former Photech property to the land already managed by the Conservation Commission across the river as Linear Park. This article requires a  $\frac{2}{3}$  vote.*

**The Select Board unanimously recommends the adoption of this article.**

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### **DOT BRIDGE REPLACEMENT EASEMENTS - ROUTE 2**

**Article 28:** To see if the Town will vote to transfer the care, custody, and control of portions of the Town-owned property located at 605 Main Street and identified by the Assessor as Parcel 341/121.0-0088-0000 from the Select Board for cemetery purposes to the Board of Selectmen for cemetery purposes and for the purpose of conveyance, which portions are approximately shown on sketch plan entitled “Route 2 – Green River Bridge Project”, on file with the Town Clerk, and to authorize the Select Board to grant to the Commonwealth permanent and temporary roadway, sidewalk, utility and such other easements as may be necessary or convenient for the purpose of repairing, improving, and/or reconstructing Main Street and/or the bridge over Green River, on such terms and conditions as the Select Board deems in the best interest of the Town, or take any other action in relation thereto.

**The Select Board unanimously recommends the adoption of this article.**

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### **AUTHORITY FOR THE SELECT BOARD TO ENTER INTO CERTAIN EASEMENTS**

**Article 29:** To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to grant non-exclusive access, utility, roadway, sidewalk and other easements on portion or portions of Town property wherever located, provided that said easements do not encumber more than 10,000 square feet or 10% of the area of any particular property, whichever is larger, on such terms and conditions as the Board deems appropriate, and, if applicable, to transfer the care, custody and control of said portions to the board or officer currently having custody of said property for the purpose for which it is held and to the Select Board or the purpose of granting said easements, or take any other action in relation thereto.

**The Select Board unanimously recommends the adoption of this article.**

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### **LEASE FORMER DOG POUND SITE FOR COMMUNITY SOLAR**

**Article 30:** To see if the Town of Williamstown will vote to authorize the Select Board to lease all or a portion of Assessor Parcel 127-146, the site of the former Dog Pound located at 673 Simonds Road, for solar array purposes, for a term of up to 30 years under terms and conditions satisfactory to the Select Board, and to grant such utility, access and other easements on said property as may be necessary or convenient for the purpose of serving said solar facility, or take any other action relative thereto.

*Note: During the Solarize MA programs the Town sponsored in 2013 and 2019 it was determined that for a variety of reasons more than 50 percent of households are not*

*able to install solar panels on their roof or property. Passage of this article will allow the Select Board to lease the land for a Community Shared Solar project that would generate solar electricity energy for residents who do not have an appropriate site for solar.*

**The Select Board unanimously recommends the adoption of this article.**

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## **ZONING BYLAW AMENDMENT – NON CONFORMING 1 & 2 FAMILY STRUCTURES**

**Article 31:** To see if the Town will vote to amend the Williamstown Zoning By-Laws, §70 of the Code of the Town of Williamstown as follows, (changes underlined, removals struck through, other text is already existing within the zoning bylaw) :

### § 70-1.4 **Nonconformance.**

- A. Applicability. Except as herein provided, provisions of this chapter shall not apply to the following:
- (1) Lawfully preexisting structures and uses. Structures and uses lawfully in existence prior to the effective date of the provision in question.
  - (2) Prior building permit or special permit. Structures and uses lawfully begun under a building or special permit issued prior to the first publication of notice of the required public hearing by the Planning Board on the applicable zoning bylaw or amendment, provided that such construction or use is commenced within six months after the issuance of the permit, and in the case of construction, completed within two years thereafter.
  - (3) Dwelling change.
    - (a) The alteration, extension, structural change, or reconstruction of a lawfully preexisting nonconforming single or two-family dwelling, provided that such alteration, extension or structural change does not increase the nonconforming nature of such dwelling.
    - (b) For the purpose of this section, the following activities are deemed not to increase the nonconforming nature of the dwelling. Such changes are permitted by right, subject to the issuance of a building permit:
      - [1] Interior alterations, structural and nonstructural.
      - [2] Extensions which do not violate the dimensional requirements of the underlying zoning district.
      - [3] Extensions that do not extend closer to a property line than the existing non conforming structure.
  - (4) Nonconforming lots.

(a) Preexisting lots. Nonconforming lots recorded in the Registry of Deeds and lots shown on a plan endorsed by the Planning Board under the Subdivision Control Law[1] are not subject to later adopted provisions, to the extent and as provided by MGL C. 40A, § 6.

(b) Reestablishment of nonconforming lot (infill housing).

[1] A legally created nonconforming lot not qualifying for the above Section 6 exemptions may be separated in ownership from adjacent lots and then developed for a single-family residence, if authorized on special permit granted by the Zoning Board of Appeals.

[2] Decision on a special permit for such separation and building shall be based upon the following, rather than the more general criteria of § **70-8.4D**. Such special permit shall be granted if the Board determines that each lot will have access and utility service comparable to that serving nearby developed premises, and no congestion or health or safety limitations would be created by development, subject to such conditions as the Board may impose, which conditions shall include that any subsequent construction shall provide yards of dimensions no smaller than those prevailing in the vicinity.

B. Alteration of nonconforming structures. Any nonconforming structure may be altered, provided that the Zoning Board of Appeals grants a special permit, following its determination that the alteration is not substantially more detrimental to the neighborhood, applying the criteria of § **70-8.4D**. A special permit is not required for any nonconforming structure whose only nonconformity is height and whose use is exempt, within the meaning of MGL c. 40A, § 3. **[Amended 5-18-1999 ATM, Art. 29]**

C. Extension of nonconforming structures and uses.

(1) Structures. A nonconforming structure may be extended, provided that:

(a) The extension complies with the dimensional requirements of the chapter of the underlying zoning district, and

(b) The Board of Appeals grants a special permit following its determination that the extension is not substantially more detrimental to the neighborhood, applying the criteria of § **70-8.4D**.

(c) A special permit is not required for any nonconforming structure whose only nonconformity is height, and whose use is exempt, within the meaning of MGL c. 40A, § 3. **[Added 5-18-1999 ATM, Art. 29]**

- (2) Single ~~or Two~~-family dwelling. A nonconforming single ~~or two~~-family dwelling which does not comply with (a) yard requirements, or (b) building requirements, may be extended provided that ~~(i) with respect to yard requirements, such extension does not increase the degree of the nonconformity, and (ii) with respect to either proposed extension,~~ the Zoning Board of Appeals grants a special permit following its determination that such extension would not be substantially more detrimental to the neighborhood than the existing dwelling, applying the criteria of § 70-8.4D. **[Added 5-15-2001 ATM, Art. 22[2] ]**

*The Supreme Judicial Court (SJC) of Massachusetts in 2011 began interpreting the sections of MGL Ch. 40A-6 more expansively as they relate to nonconforming single and two-family homes. Over the past decade the courts in Massachusetts have continued to uphold this interpretation. In January 2019 a case in Brookline firmly solidified this more expansive interpretation of MGL Ch. 40A-6 which sets a minimum floor for rights local zoning must extend to non conforming 1 & 2 family properties. This amendment brings our local bylaw into alignment with current case law and extends those minimum rights as the courts have directed.*

**The Planning Board voted unanimously to recommend Town Meeting adopt this article.**

**The Select Board unanimously recommends the adoption of this article.**

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## **ZONING BYLAW AMENDMENT – REGULATION OF LONG AND COMMON DRIVEWAYS**

**Article 32:** To see if the Town will vote to amend the Williamstown Zoning By-Laws, §70 of the Code of the Town of Williamstown as follows:

**Amend 70-5.2.A by renumbering the existing 5.2.A(2) to 5.2.A(4) and adding the following section as a new 5.2.A(2) through (3)**

(2) Driveways. All driveways shall be constructed in a manner ensuring reasonable and safe access from the public way serving the premises to within a distance of 100 feet or less from the building site of the structure on the premises, for all vehicles, including, but not limited to, emergency, fire, and police vehicles and shall comply with the following;

- a. Distance: Driveways are limited to 500 feet in length. A driveway longer than 500 feet may be permitted by Special Permit from the Zoning Board of Appeals following a determination that the driveway will provide adequate access for emergency vehicles.
- b. Grade: For driveways longer than 100 feet. Maximum grade of a driveway may not exceed 12%. A driveway exceeding 12% maximum grade may be permitted by Special Permit from the Zoning Board of Appeals following a

determination that the driveway will provide adequate access for emergency vehicles.

- c. Surfacing: For driveways longer than 100 feet. Driveways shall have a surface adequate for emergency vehicle access, constructed of concrete, asphalt, paving stone, gravel, or other hard material.
- d. Width: Any driveway seeking a Special Permit to exceed 500 feet in length shall be a minimum width of 10 feet.
- e. Clearance: Any driveway longer than 100 feet shall have an overhead clearance of at least 15 feet.
- f. Special Permit Requirements. In hearing Special Permit petitions in association with this chapter, in addition to the general criteria of 70-8.4, the Zoning Board of Appeals shall seek comment from the Fire Chief and Chief of Police regarding emergency access through the proposed driveway.

(3) Common Driveways. Common Driveways for up to 3 primary structures and no more than 6 dwelling units are permissible by right. A common driveway servicing more than 3 primary structures and more than 6 dwelling units may be permitted by Special Permit from the Zoning Board of Appeals.

- a. Limit on Units and Structures: No common driveway shall serve more than 5 primary structures and no more than 8 dwelling units.
- b. Construction Standards: All common driveways shall comply with the driveway standards of 70-5.2.A(2) for distance, grade, and surfacing, and shall additionally maintain a traveled way width of 12 feet, with adequate pullouts for opposing vehicles, for all sections of driveway serving more than one structure. These standards may be waived by Special Permit from the Zoning Board of Appeals following a determination that the driveway will provide adequate access for emergency vehicles.
- c. Right of Access: When applying for a building permit for a new dwelling unit serviced by a common driveway the applicant shall demonstrate that, through easements, restrictive covenants, or other appropriate legal devices, the maintenance, repair, snow removal, and liability for the common driveway and common right of access, shall remain perpetually the responsibility of all private parties, or their successors-in-interest, relying on said common driveway for access.
- d. Frontage Restriction: All lots served by a common driveway shall have the required amount of lot frontage on a street as defined by this chapter. No common driveway shall be considered a street as defined by this chapter.



- e. Special Permit Requirements. In hearing Special Permit petitions in association with this chapter, in addition to the general criteria of 70-8.4, the Zoning Board of Appeals shall seek comment from the Fire Chief and Chief of Police regarding emergency access through the proposed driveway.

*In Williamstown, many single family homes are constructed with long driveways. Our emergency responders have become increasingly concerned about their ability to navigate these driveways safely. This proposal responds to this concern. It will not impact driveways less than 500' in length.*

*It also clarifies the legality of common driveways in our community. This type of long rural driveways can service two or more homes and have been allowed for decades as "customarily accessory" to single family homes.*

**The Planning Board voted 4 in favor to 1 opposed, to recommend Town Meeting adopt this article.**

**The Select Board unanimously recommends the adoption of this article.**

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**ZONING BYLAW AMENDMENT – MARIJUANA REGULATION REFORM**

**Article 33:** To see if the Town will vote to amend the Williamstown Zoning By-Laws, §70 of the Code of the Town of Williamstown as follows:

Amend §70-3.3A by deleting the current marijuana related use categories (struck - through) and changing the following use designations (underlined);

ZONING DISTRICTS	RR1	RR 2 RR 3	GR	LB	VB	PB	LI	SG
<b>§ 70-3.3A PRIMARY USES</b>								
<b>(2) BUSINESS USES</b>								
<del>Marijuana retail</del>	No	No	No	No	No	BA	No	BA
<del>Marijuana production facility</del>	No	BA	No	No	No	No	BA	No
<u>Marijuana Cultivator (See §70-7.2K)</u>								
<u>Indoor Cultivation</u>	No	No	No	No	No	BA	BA	No

<a href="#">Outdoor Cultivation</a>	No	<a href="#">No</a>	No	No	No	No	<a href="#">No</a>	No
<a href="#">Marijuana Product Manufacturer</a>	No	<a href="#">No</a>	No	No	No	<a href="#">BA</a>	BA	No
<a href="#">Marijuana Retailer</a>	No	No	No	No	No	BA	No	BA
<a href="#">Marijuana Testing Facility</a>	No	No	No	No	No	No	<a href="#">Yes</a>	No

**Amend §70-9.2 by deleting the definitions for MARIJUANA PRODUCTION FACILITY, MARIJUANA RETAILER, and MARIJUANA TESTING FACILITY and adding the following:**

**MARIJUANA CULTIVATOR** - An entity licensed to cultivate, process and package Marijuana, and to Transfer Marijuana to other Marijuana Establishments as defined by 935 CMR 500, but not to Consumers.

**MARIJUANA CULTIVATOR, INDOOR** - An indoor cultivator means one that cultivates the growth of marijuana plants within a building through use of artificial light. An Indoor Marijuana Cultivator shall be entirely enclosed in a building and activity therein shall not be visible to a public way or adjacent properties. All indoor cultivators shall use artificial ventilation and filtering equipment to minimize the impact of odors on surrounding properties.

**MARIJUANA CULTIVATOR, OUTDOOR** - An outdoor cultivator means one that cultivates the growth of marijuana plants outside of a building or in a structure that is unconditioned through the exclusive use of natural light.

**MARIJUANA PRODUCT MANUFACTURER** - An entity licensed to obtain, compound, blend, extract, infuse or otherwise make or prepare a Cannabis or Marijuana Product. Process and package Marijuana or Marijuana Products and to Transfer these products to other Marijuana Establishments, but not to Consumers.

**MARIJUANA RETAILER** - An entity licensed to purchase and transport Cannabis or Marijuana Product from Marijuana Establishments and to Transfer or otherwise Transfer this product to Marijuana Establishments and to sell to Consumers.

**MARIJUANA TESTING FACILITY** - An entity licensed to test marijuana and marijuana products, including certification for potency and the presence of contaminants, in accordance with applicable Massachusetts General Laws.

**Amend §70 by enacting a new §70-7.2K**

**K. Marijuana Cultivators.** Indoor Marijuana Cultivators, Marijuana Product Manufacturers, and Marijuana Testing Facilities shall be allowed in accordance with §

70-3.3, Use Regulation Schedule and shall abide by the following development standards. Outdoor Cultivation is not permitted.

- (1) Emissions and Odor Control and Mitigation: A detailed plan to control and mitigate odors or measurable emissions of any kind from exiting the proposed facility using the Best Available Technology must be submitted. The plan must include Design and Specifications of all filtration technologies and equipment proposed to be implemented along with an action plan addressing the response to any emissions that may occur during the operation of the facility. If emissions or odors occur at any time during the ongoing operations of a duly licensed facility then the Indoor Marijuana Cultivators, Marijuana Product Manufacturers, or Marijuana Testing Facilities will immediately correct such condition and inform the permit granting authority in writing of the measures taken to mitigate.
- (2) Renewable Energy Requirements: Indoor Marijuana Cultivators shall be required to integrate roof or ground mounted solar photovoltaic systems or an alternative renewable energy technology to provide for at least 25 percent of the energy needs of the facility. The Zoning Board of Appeals may modify or waive this requirement based on site conditions.
- (3) Expert Review: In reviewing an application for Indoor Marijuana Cultivator special permit, the Zoning Board of Appeals reserves the right to hire an independent consultant(s) with experience in evaluating marijuana cultivation facilities on behalf of municipalities and whose services shall be paid for by the applicant(s).
- (4) Indoor Marijuana Cultivators shall comply with Article V - Development Standards.
- (5) Indoor Marijuana Cultivators shall be subject to §70-8.2 Development Plan Review.

**Amend §70-8.2.A be adding the following line (6);**

- (6) Creation of, or substantial alteration to, an Indoor Marijuana Cultivator.

*The Planning Board proposed and Town Meeting passed regulations governing marijuana related land uses in 2017 to respond to the passage of a 2016 ballot initiative legalizing recreational marijuana products. These were passed prior to the formation of the Commonwealth's Cannabis Control Commission and the promulgation of that Commission's regulations. This proposal aligns our bylaw with those regulations and provides applicants with additional requirements for setbacks, screening, lot area, performance for growing facilities. These standards will help our Zoning Board of Appeals evaluate proposals. This proposal will also ban the commercial growing of all recreational and medical marijuana outdoors in Williamstown.*

**The Planning Board voted 4 in favor to 1 abstention to recommend Town Meeting adopt this article.**

**The Select Board recommends the adoption of this article by a vote of 3 - 2.**

**CITIZEN’S PETITION FOR PROPOSED ZONING AMENDMENT**

**Article 34:**

*The Town of Williamstown voted at Town Meeting in 2017 by overwhelming majority (207-36) to approve zoning revisions to allow for recreational marijuana establishments in two zoning districts in town: Planned Business and Southern Gateway. The bylaw also allows for outdoor marijuana cultivation, as regulated by the Massachusetts Cannabis Control Commission. Since then, one such retailer, Silver Therapeutics, has begun operating and two more are planned. Marijuana sold in legal dispensaries must be grown in Massachusetts.*

*In 2020, the Williamstown Planning Board voted to overturn the right to outdoor marijuana cultivation, while creating rules for indoor cultivation. The Agricultural Commission, representing the Williamstown farming community, unanimously supports the continued right to outdoor marijuana cultivation, which can be a financially profitable crop to help support farming operations. (Outdoor cultivation, in which the plants grow in soil and are watered by rain, is less expensive, less energy intensive and less of a financial investment, than indoor cultivation.)*

*The proposed amendment continues to allow limited outdoor marijuana cultivation on a small-scale. The amendment addresses the concerns that residents voiced about the proposal for an outdoor growing operation on Blair Road. It separates growing from residences and restricts it to our rural agricultural zones. The proposed bylaw limits the size of the canopy to 50,000 square feet, half the size of what is allowed by the state; it restricts growing to parcels over 5 acres in Rural Residential zones, the property line setback if 75 feet and 500 feet from any residential structure, screening and odor dispersal plans are also required. Licenses are granted through a special permit process, given the public a chance to voice concerns. These town regulations are in addition to those established by the Commonwealth, including the 500-foot buffer around K-12 schools. Mapping of the zones and restrictions shows a limited number of locations in town where growing would be allowed. Licenses are granted through a special permit process, given the public a chance to voice concerns.*

To see if the town will amend Sec. 70-3.3A by allowing for outdoor cultivation in designated zones, and Amend Sec. 70-7.2K by deleting the existing and replacing with the following:

**Amend §70-3.3A by allowing outdoor cultivation in designated zones.**

<b>ZONING DISTRICTS</b>	<b>RR 1</b>	<b>RR 2</b>	<b>G R</b>	<b>L B</b>	<b>V B</b>	<b>P B</b>	<b>LI</b>	<b>S G</b>
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		<b>RR 3</b>						
<b>§ 70-3.3A PRIMARY USES</b>								
<b>(2) BUSINESS USES</b>								
<i>Marijuana Cultivator (See §70-7.2K)</i>								
Indoor Cultivation	No	No	N o	N o	N o	B A	B A	N o
<b><u>Outdoor Cultivation</u></b>	<b><u>BA</u></b>	<b><u>BA</u></b>	<b><u>N</u></b> <b><u>o</u></b>	<b><u>N</u></b> <b><u>o</u></b>	<b><u>N</u></b> <b><u>o</u></b>	<b><u>N</u></b> <b><u>o</u></b>	<b><u>B</u></b> <b><u>A</u></b>	<b><u>N</u></b> <b><u>o</u></b>

**Amend §70-7.2K by deleting the existing and replacing with the following:**

**K. Marijuana Cultivators.** Indoor and Outdoor Marijuana Cultivators shall be allowed in accordance with § 70-3.3, Use Regulation Schedule and shall abide by the following development standards.

1. Indoor Marijuana Cultivators as defined by 70-9, shall abide by the following development standards.
  - a. Odor Control and Mitigation: A detailed plan to control and mitigate odors or emissions of any kind from exiting the proposed facility, using the Best Available Technology must be submitted. The plan must include Design and Specifications of all filtration technologies and equipment proposed to be implemented along with an action plan addressing the response to any emissions that may occur during the operation of the facility. At any time during the ongoing operations of a duly licensed facility, if emissions or odors occur, then the Marijuana Cultivator will immediately correct such condition and inform the permit granting authority in writing of the measures taken to mitigate.
  - b. Renewable Energy Requirements: Indoor Marijuana Cultivators shall be required to integrate roof or ground mounted solar photovoltaic systems or an alternative renewable energy technology to provide for at least 25 percent of the energy needs of the facility. The Zoning Board of Appeals may modify or waive this requirement based on site conditions.
  - c. Expert Review: In reviewing an application for Indoor Marijuana Cultivator special permit, the Zoning Board of Appeals reserves the right to hire an independent consultant(s) with experience in evaluating marijuana cultivation facilities on behalf of municipalities and whose services shall be paid for by the applicant(s).

(2) Outdoor Marijuana Cultivator: An outdoor cultivator as defined by 70-9, shall abide by the following development standards.

- a. Lot Area Requirement: All Outdoor Marijuana Cultivators shall be located on 5 or more acres.
- b. Setback Requirements: All Outdoor Marijuana Cultivator shall locate the canopy area of the facility, as defined by the Massachusetts Cannabis Control Commission, at least 75 feet from property lines and 500 feet from any residential structures, not in common ownership with the applicant, in existence at the time of the operator's application to the Zoning Board of Appeals for a special permit.
- c. Screening: All secure area fencing as required by the Massachusetts Cannabis Control Commission shall be screened from the public way and neighboring properties by site appropriate native vegetation. All applicants shall submit a screening plan. The Zoning Board of Appeals may waive this requirement if topography or other site considerations produces adequate screening.
- d. Lighting: All Outdoor Marijuana Cultivators shall meet the security requirements of 935 CMR 500 without the use of overnight visible outdoor lighting. Visible lighting on site shall be limited to that necessary to provide safe egress from buildings and parking and shall be of full cut off Type 3 fixtures as defined by 70-5.4(D). All applicants shall submit a lighting plan as defined by 70-5.4(D) of this chapter to the Zoning Board of Appeals as part of their application.
- e. Odor Dispersal Plan: All Outdoor Marijuana Cultivators shall utilize Best Available Technology which may include vegetative buffers to mitigate cannabis plant odors. Applicants shall submit a detailed odor dispersal plan to the Zoning Board of Appeals as part of their application.
- f. Expert Review: In reviewing applications for Outdoor Marijuana Cultivator special permits the Zoning Board of Appeals reserves the right to hire an independent consultant(s) with experience in evaluating marijuana cultivation facilities on behalf of municipalities and whose services shall be paid for by the applicant(s).
- g. Tiers and Licenses: The maximum allowable area of cultivation is 50,000 sq. ft., or Tier 6, as defined by the Cannabis Control Commission.

**The Planning Board voted 3 in favor to 2 opposed, to recommend Town Meeting adopt this article.**

**The Planning Board voted unanimously to recommend Town Meeting amend the citizen's petition to harmonize the language in the petition to bring it in line with the work the Planning Board has previously done on marijuana land uses.**

**The Select Board voted to recommend against Town Meeting adopting the article 3 - 1 - 1 and urges the proponents to work with the Planning Board to bring a proposal to the next town meeting.**

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**CITIZEN’S PETITION FOR PROPOSED ZONING AMENDMENT**

**Article 35:** To see if the town will amend 70-7.2H (4) by increasing the allowable number of farm events (weddings and family celebrations) per year from six to ten as enumerated below:

H.

Weddings and family celebrations on farms. Weddings and family celebrations on farms (the “events”) are allowed as indicated in §70-3.3, Use Regulation Schedule. The purpose of this bylaw is to provide an option to farms of sufficient size in order to promote the sustainability of farming, the enhancement of our community and the preservation of open space. Such uses shall comply with the following:

[Added 5-15-2012 ATM, Art. 31]

- (1)The events may only be held on farm property which qualifies as a farm as defined by the Right to Farm Bylaw, Chapter 46, §46-2 of the Code of the Town of Williamstown.
- (2) The side, front and back setbacks for the event must be no less than 100 feet.
- (3) There shall be no electronically amplified sound at events except between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 11:00 p.m.
- (4) The maximum number of events per calendar year, per farm shall not exceed six ten events.
- (5)The Board of Appeals may approve such events for a multiyear period of time, revocable subject to the applicant complying with the provisions of this section, and any other conditions established by the Board.

*The Agriculture Commission supports this bylaw revision because events on the farm generate income for farmers when it is difficult to generate income from agriculture. Weddings and events on farms create more opportunity for farmers to earn revenue, and this important source of income helps support their agricultural operations and their farmland, and the pastoral open landscape that defines Williamstown’s character and heritage.*

**The Planning Board voted unanimously to recommend Town Meeting adopt this article.**

**The Select Board unanimously recommends the adoption of this article.**

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**CITIZEN’S PETITION “NOT IN OUR COUNTY PLEDGE”**

**Article 36:** “Not in Our County Pledge” Petition to the Williamstown MA 2020 Town Warrant

*Whereas*, the Town of Williamstown is committed to providing equality, access, and opportunity for all its residents, and believes in the vital importance of a diverse community; and *Whereas*, a national call for racial justice has necessitated the

affirmation of the Town's commitment to the ideals of equity and inclusion, particularly concerning the effort to assure the safety of black-identifying people of color; and *Whereas*, the Town of Williamstown wants to be a welcoming community and a safe and enjoyable place of residence for people regardless of background,

Now, therefore, be it resolved that

1. The Town of Williamstown and its representatives are fully committed to upholding the following Not in Our County Pledge:

As an institution, organization, or local business, we commit to working together with our constituents, employees, employers and stakeholders to create a safer, more integrated Berkshire County. As an organization we respond with best intention and practices to not stay silent in the face of intolerance or hate based on race, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, ethnicity, country of origin, ability or any other factor. We work to acknowledge, address and act in response to all forms of intended or unintended exclusion, hate, bigotry, intolerance and bullying. We pledge to renew our commitment to this work every day and to respond to all incidents in a timely, collaborative manner.

2. The Town of Williamstown, as well as its representatives and agencies, will report a representative and unbiased picture of any and all hate, exclusion, or intolerance they may witness as being directed towards an individual or group based on any of the above demographics. They have the responsibility to uphold the values of justice and inclusion, and therefore pledge to combat and speak out against any infractions to the above pledge.

**The Select Board unanimously recommends the adoption of this article.**

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**CITIZENS PETITION “EQUITY”**

**Article 37:** “Equity” Petition to the Williamstown MA 2020 Town Warrant

*Whereas*, urgent structural change is vital in the effort for an equitable and welcoming Williamstown; and, *Whereas*, it is of utmost importance that all community members are enfranchised regardless of personal identity; and, *Whereas*, the level of accessible housing in Williamstown can determine the socio-economic, and in some cases racial diversity of the town; and, *Whereas*, education and training can successfully be used to undo remnants of structural oppression,

Therefore, be it resolved that

1. The Town of Williamstown recommends that fellow Williamstown boards, committees, and agencies, in particular the Planning Board, critically



reexamine and continue to create their policies and practices according to a commitment to accessible living.

2. The Town of Williamstown asks boards and committees to reflect on areas including housing and zoning and make changes that actively allow for a town more supportive of a wide array of racial and economic backgrounds.

3. The Town of Williamstown encourages such bodies to heavily consider community input, especially from traditionally marginalized groups, both directly during meetings and in collaboration with the recently instantiated Race and Equity Advisory Committee, or similar name.

4. The Town of Williamstown commits to providing equity training for Town employees and public office holders. The training should prioritize trainees who interact with the public. The training should include information on local instances of structural racism and should prioritize strategies to serve traditionally marginalized and under-represented people. It should emphasize breaking down systemic inequities in our community rather than personal conduct and personal bias.

Quarterly reports should be shared with the Race and Equity Advisory Committee and community members to address progress towards the above goals. These reports should include types and vendors of equity training and policies and procedures created to advance access for traditionally under-represented groups.

**The Select Board recommends the adoption of this article by a vote of 4 - 0 - 1.**

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And you are hereby directed to serve this Warrant by posting attested copies thereof in four or more public places, as well as the United States Post Office within the Town. Hereof fail not and make return of this Warrant, with your doings to the Town Clerk on or before the time set for holding said meeting.

**Williamstown Select Board**

**Date: 3 August 2020**

Jane Patton, chair  
Andrew Hogeland, vice-chair  
Hugh Daley

Anne O'Connor  
Jeffrey Thomas

*Approved by roll call vote at noticed Zoom meeting of Select Board, August 3, 2020.*

Berkshire, ss:

August

I hereby certify that I have posted attested copies of the above Warrant in four public places in the Town of Williamstown, and the Post Office at least seven days before said Annual Town Meeting and Town Election.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Constable

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date