

**TOWN OF WILLIAMSTOWN
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
FISCAL YEAR
JULY 1, 2023 to JUNE 30, 2024
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 Williamstown Elementary School, 115 Church Street, in said Williamstown on

TUESDAY, THE NINTH OF MAY 2023 at SEVEN O'CLOCK A.M. for the following purpose:

To bring their votes to the election of officers for the election of all Town Officers
The polls will be opened at 7:00 o'clock A.M. and will close at 8:00 o'clock P.M.

And furthermore to meet at Mount Greylock Regional School, 1781 Cold Spring Road, on TUESDAY, THE SIXTEENTH DAY OF MAY 2023 AT SEVEN O'CLOCK P.M. for the following purpose:

To act on all Articles of this warrant, except Article 1, which has been acted upon at the above meeting for the election of officers.

ELECTION OF TOWN OFFICERS

Article 1. To choose two Select Board members, each for a three year term; two Library Trustee members, each for a three year term; one Planning Board member for a five year term and one Planning Board member for a five year term with one year remaining. *The election occurs on May 9, 2023 after this document has gone to the printer. Election results are posted on the town website www.williamstownma.gov.*

REPORTS OF TOWN COMMITTEES

Article 2. 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.

APPROPRIATION FOR DEBT SERVICE

Article 3. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or appropriate from available funds, the sum of \$661,587.50 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 Outstanding 7/1/23</i>	<i>FY2024 Principal and Interest</i>
Elementary School	2005	2	\$385,000	\$202,700.00
Police Station	2018	15	\$3,970,000	\$344,487.50
Cable Mills	2015	2	\$220,000	\$114,400.00

The Finance Committee unanimously recommends the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$547,187.50 from taxation and \$114,400.00 be appropriated from the Community Preservation Fund.

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

The Select Board unanimously recommends the adoption of this article. 5 - 0

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

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

Article 4. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, or appropriate from available funds, the sum of \$1,428,000 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>
Church Street Design	Public Works	\$60,000
Meecham Street - Mill/Pave/Curbing	Highway	\$107,300
Street Sweeper	Highway	\$295,000
School Street Paving	Highway	\$107,000
Mooreland Street Paving	Highway	\$96,000
Park Street Paving	Highway	\$102,600
Commercial Mower	Parks	\$16,500
Patrol Equipment	Police	\$13,600
Roof Repair	Library	\$20,000
Library Facilities Repairs	Library	\$300,000
Subtotal		\$1,118,000
4x4 ¾ Ton Utility Body (50%)	Sewer	\$50,000
Subtotal		\$50,000
Sherman Reservoir Mechanical Rehab	Water	\$40,000
Sherman Reservoir Emer Action Plan	Water	\$20,000
Mandated Service Line Inventory Plan	Water	\$150,000
4x4 ¾ Ton Utility Body (50%)	Water	\$50,000

Subtotal		\$260,000
Total Capital		\$1,428,000

The Finance Committee unanimously recommends the Town vote to transfer from the General Fund Unreserved Fund Balance the sum of \$1,118,000, that \$50,000 be transferred from Estimated Sewer Receipts and that \$260,000 be transferred from Estimated Water Receipts.

The Select Board recommends the adoption of this article by a vote of 5 - 0.

Public Works, Highway, Facilities, Parks and Library items are funded by Unreserved Fund Balance a/k/a "Free Cash" transfers. Sewer and Water Department items are funded by user fees.

SEWER DEPARTMENT

Article 5. To see if the Town will vote to appropriate from Estimated Sewer Receipts the sum of \$1,592,515.43 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 \$1,592,515.43 from Estimated Sewer Receipts.

The Select Board unanimously recommends the adoption of this article. 5 - 0

The sewer rate was \$3.31 for FY23 and will remain unchanged for FY24. The HWQD rate will increase from the FY23 rate of \$4.21 to \$4.66 for FY24 This is a \$.45 increase. The Sewer Department is an Enterprise Fund. All expenses related to the operation of the department are paid by user fees rather than taxation.

WATER DEPARTMENT

Article 6. To see if the Town will vote to appropriate from Estimated Water Receipts the sum of \$695,819.68 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 \$629,169.00 from Estimated Water Receipts and the sum of \$66,650.68 from Water Fund Unreserved Fund Balance.

The Select Board unanimously recommends the adoption of this article. 5 - 0

The water rate was \$3.85 for FY23 and will remain unchanged for FY24. The Water Department is an Enterprise Fund. All expenses of the Department are paid by user fees, not taxation.

WATER RATE

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 \$3.85 per 100 cubic feet of water as fixed by the Select Board at their meeting of April 10, 2023 to be effective July 1, 2023, or take any other action in relation thereto.

The Finance Committee unanimously recommends the Town vote to approve a municipal water rate of \$3.85 per 100 cubic feet.

The Select Board unanimously recommends the adoption of this article. 5 - 0

There is no increase in the rate from the previous year

TRANSFER STATION DEPARTMENT

Article 8. To see if the Town will vote to appropriate from Estimated Transfer Station Receipts or other available funds the sum of \$253,712.79 or any other sum, to pay interest and maturing debt, and for charges, expenses and outlays of the Transfer Station Department, including costs of public trash removal or take any other action in relation thereto.

The Finance Committee unanimously recommends the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$233,712.79 from Estimated Transfer Station Receipts and \$20,000 from general taxation.

The Select Board unanimously recommends the adoption of this article. 5 - 0

The sticker permit fee remains unchanged at \$120 for a primary sticker and \$20 for secondary/temporary stickers. The tag fee also remains unchanged at \$2/bag. The Transfer Station is an Enterprise Fund.

CHAPTER 90 HIGHWAY FUNDS

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. 5 - 0

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.

TO FUND OTHER POST EMPLOYMENT BENEFITS

Article 10. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or appropriate from available funds the sum of \$50,000 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 \$44,550 from Unreserved Fund Balance; that \$2,250 be appropriated from Estimated Water Receipts; that \$2,600 be appropriated from Estimated Sewer Receipts; and that \$600 be appropriated from Estimated Transfer Station Receipts to the OPEB Trust Fund.

The Select Board unanimously recommends the adoption of this article. 5 - 0

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.

APPROPRIATION TO COMPENSATED ABSENCES RESERVE FUND

Article 11. To see if the Town will vote to transfer from the General Fund Unreserved Fund Balance the sum of \$50,000 to the Compensated Absences 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 \$50,000 from Unreserved Fund Balance to Compensated Absences Reserve Fund.

The Select Board unanimously recommends the adoption of this article. 5 - 0

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

APPROPRIATION TO STABILIZATION FUND

Article 12. To see if the Town will vote to transfer from the General Fund Unreserved Fund Balance the sum of \$250,000 to the Stabilization Fund.

The Finance Committee unanimously recommends the Town vote to transfer the sum of \$250,000 from Unreserved Fund Balance to the Stabilization Fund.

The Select Board unanimously recommends the adoption of this article. 5 - 0

This appropriation continues to replenish funds that had previously been used from the Stabilization Fund and brings the expected principal balance to approximately \$1.1M.

REVOLVING FUND SPENDING LIMITS

Article 13. To see if the Town will vote to set annual spending limits for revolving funds for the Fiscal Year July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024, under the provisions of MGL chapter 44, §53E½.

Revolving Fund	Authorized to Expend	Revenue Source	Use of Fund	Spending Limit
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. 5 - 0

GENERAL GOVERNMENT FUNDING

Article 14. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or appropriate from available funds, the sum of \$9,697,070 or any other sum, to pay interest and maturing debt, and for charges, expenses and outlays of the several Town Departments, namely:

<u>Department</u>	<u>Fiscal Year 2023</u>	<u>Fiscal Year 2024</u>
Executive	\$483,042.28	\$433,550.00
Administration and Finance	\$3,494,723.49	\$3,687,621.01
Community Development	\$446,494.42	\$459,992.17
Public Safety	\$1,625,746.29	\$1,784,072.19
Public Works	\$2,353,246.49	\$2,373,087.07

Human Services	\$910,541.59	\$958,747.56
Total	\$9,313,794.56	\$9,697,070.00

The Finance Committee unanimously recommends the Town vote to raise and appropriate \$9,482,770 from taxation; that \$117,081 be appropriated from Estimated Water Receipts; that \$82,219 be appropriated from Estimated Sewer Receipts; and that \$15,000 be appropriated from the Sherman Burbank Memorial Trust.

The Select Board recommends the adoption of this article with appropriations as shown above by a vote of 5 - 0.

The General Government appropriation is a 4.11% increase over the current year.

FINANCE COMMITTEE RESERVE FUND

Article 15. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$75,000** for the Finance Committee Reserve Fund, or take any other action in relation thereto.

The Finance Committee unanimously recommends the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$75,000 for the Finance Committee Reserve Fund.

The Select Board recommends the adoption of this article by a vote of 5 - 0.

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

NORTHERN BERKSHIRE VOCATIONAL REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Article 16. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, or appropriate from available funds, the sum of \$260,059.68 or any other sum, being Williamstown’s share of the Northern Berkshire Vocational Regional School District FY24 budget, or take any other action in relation thereto.

The Finance Committee unanimously recommends the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$260,059.68 from taxation.

The Select Board unanimously recommends the adoption of this article. 5 - 0

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

The Williamstown assessment is a 19.3% decrease from the current year which is attributable to decreased enrollment.

MOUNT GREYLOCK REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Article 17. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, or appropriate from available funds, the sum of \$13,258,887 or any other sum, being Williamstown’s share of the Mount Greylock Regional School District FY24 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>FY2023</i>	<i>FY2024</i>
Operating Assessment	\$11,817,421.95	\$12,101,198
Capital Assessment	\$ 1,035,933.00	\$1,157,689
Total Assessment	\$12,853,354.95	\$13,258,887

The Finance Committee unanimously recommends the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$13,258,887 from taxation.

The Select Board unanimously recommends the adoption of this article. 5 - 0

The Williamstown assessment is a combined budget of the Elementary School and Mount Greylock Regional School due to regionalization. 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. The portion of operating assessment attributable to Williamstown Elementary School is \$5,945,869 and the portion attributable to Mount Greylock Regional School is \$6,155,329.

This is a 3.16% increase from the current year.

MOUNT GREYLOCK REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT TRACK

Article 18. To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the amount of \$800,000 for the purpose of completing the Field and Track Project at Mount Greylock Regional School, pursuant to Chapter 71, Section 16(d) of the General Laws, and the District Agreement, as amended, or pursuant to any other enabling authority, 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 with the understanding that the \$ 800,000 will be allocated between the two district members according to the district agreement. 5 - 0

MOUNT GREYLOCK REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT STABILIZATION FUND

Article 19. To see if the Town will vote to approve the creation of a Stabilization Fund by the Mount Greylock Regional School District, per M.G.L. c.71, s.16 G ½, with separate accounting and assessment per the regional school district agreement language related to apportionment of capital costs, or take any other action related thereto.

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

The Select Board unanimously recommends the adoption of this article. 5 - 0

REVISING DEFINITIONS OF MOBILE AND MANUFACTURED HOME

Article 20. To see if the Town will vote to amend the Williamstown Zoning By-laws, Section 70-9.2 Terms Defined, by deleting the language shown below with a strikethrough line and adding the language in italics, or take any other action in relation thereto.

~~MOBILE HOME~~

~~A dwelling unit built on a chassis and containing complete electrical, plumbing and sanitary facilities and designed to be installed on a temporary or permanent foundation for permanent living quarters, as defined in the Regulations Governing Mobile Home Parks adopted by the Board of Selectmen, acting as the Board of Health.~~

MANUFACTURED HOME/MOBILE HOME

A structure, built in conformance with the National Manufactured Home Construction and Safety Standards, which is transportable in one or more sections, which, in the traveling mode, is eight body feet or more in width or 40 body feet or more in length or which, when erected on site, is 320 or more square feet and which is built on a permanent chassis and designed to be used as a dwelling unit, with or without a permanent foundation, when connected to the required utilities and includes plumbing, heating, air conditioning and electrical systems contained therein.

~~MOBILE HOME PARK~~

~~Any lot or tract of land upon which two or more mobile homes occupied for dwelling purposes are located, including any buildings, structures, fixtures and equipment used in connection with said mobile homes, as defined in the Regulations Governing Mobile Home parks adopted by the Board of Selectmen as the Board of Health.~~

MANUFACTURED HOUSING COMMUNITY/MOBILE HOME PARK

Any lot or tract of land upon which three or more manufactured homes occupied for dwelling purposes are located, including any buildings, structures, fixtures and equipment used in connection with manufactured homes.

This proposal will make zoning definitions of manufactured homes align with Williamstown Department of Health regulations and Housing and Urban Development (HUD) regulations.

The Planning Board unanimously recommends the adoption of this article. 5 - 0

The Select Board unanimously recommends the adoption of this article pending any changes. 5 - 0

REMOVING BARRIERS TO MANUFACTURED HOUSING.

Article 21. To see if the Town will vote to amend the Williamstown Zoning By-Laws, §70, to allow mobile homes in all residential zones in the Town of Williamstown as follows, or take any other action in relation thereto:

Amend Section 70-9.2 Terms Defined, by deleting the language shown below with a strikethrough line and adding the language in italics..

DWELLING, SINGLE-FAMILY

A detached structure, ~~other than a mobile home,~~ *including a manufactured/mobile home,* containing no more than one dwelling unit.

Amend Section 70-3.3.A.1 Residential Uses, Use Table, by removing the “Mobile home” rows from the table.

	RR1	RR2	GR	LB	SG	VB	PB	LI
		RR3						
<i>Mobile home park:</i>								
<i>Within Mobile Home Park Overlay District (See § 70-7.4C.)</i>	BA	BA	BA	BA	BA	BA	BA	BA
<i>Elsewhere</i>	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
<i>Mobile home:</i>								
<i>Within mobile home park</i>	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
<i>Elsewhere:</i>								
<i>For up to 12 months while residence is being reconstruction</i>	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
<i>Other cases</i>	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
RESIDENTIAL USES	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	No

	RR1	RR2 RR3	GR	LB	SG	VB	PB	LI
<i>Mobile home park:</i>								
<i>Within Mobile Home Park Overlay District (See § 70-7.4C.)</i>	BA	BA	BA	BA	BA	BA	BA	BA
<i>Elsewhere</i>	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
Mobile home:								
— Within mobile home park	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
— Elsewhere:								
— For up to 12 months while residence is being reconstruction	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
— Other cases	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
<i>Single-family dwelling</i>								

Amend Section 70-7.1.I Mobile Homes and Campers. by deleting the language shown below with a strikethrough line and adding the language in italics.

~~I. Mobile home and e- Campers. No area shall be occupied or used by a mobile home or camper for a total time in excess of 30 days during any one calendar year, with the following exceptions:~~

~~(1) Campers owned by the occupant of the premises may be stored in the side or rear yard when not in use.~~

~~(2) Mobile homes may be located and occupied in a duly established mobile home park conforming to the regulations governing mobile home parks in Williamstown adopted by the Board of Selectmen acting as the Board of Health, or as such regulations may from time to time be amended by the Board of Selectmen acting as the Board of Health.~~

~~(3) The owner or occupier of a dwelling which has been destroyed by fire or other holocaust may reside in a mobile home on the site of such dwelling for up to 12 months while the dwelling is being rebuilt.~~

Currently, our zoning bylaw does not allow manufactured homes/mobile homes anywhere except in mobile home parks. They are one of the most affordable forms of home construction. This proposal will allow manufactured/mobile homes by right anywhere that single family homes are allowed by right. By removing the sections of the Use Table (in blue) that limit mobile homes to mobile home parks and changing the

definition of single family dwelling to include mobile homes, we are allowing this type of home construction where single family homes are allowed, see RESIDENTIAL USES, Single-family dwelling in table. And we need to remove the temporary allowance in section 70-7.1.1 since we want these homes to be permitted permanently. Mobile homes are built to and certified by Housing and Urban Development (HUD) standards.

This proposal requires a 2/3 vote of Town Meeting.

The Planning Board unanimously recommends the adoption of this article. 5 - 0

The Select Board unanimously recommends the adoption of this article pending any changes. 5 - 0

REMOVING BARRIERS TO SMALL SCALE MULTI-UNIT HOMES - 3 Family

Article 22. To see if the town will vote to amend the Williamstown Zoning By-Laws, §70-3.3.A.1 Residential Uses, Use Table, by inserting the bold and underlined use and permissions, or take any other action in relation thereto;

	RR 1	RR2 RR3	GR	LB	SG	V B	P B	LI
USES NOT LISTED	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
§ 70-3.3A Principal uses (See § 70-3.3B for accessory uses.)								
RESIDENTIAL USES <i>Single-family dwelling</i>	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	No
<i>Two-family dwelling</i>	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	No
<u>Three-family dwelling</u>	No	No	<u>Yes</u>	No	No	No	No	No
<i>Detached accessory dwellings [See § 70-7.1D]</i>	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	No
<i>Other Multifamily</i>								
<i>Within major residential development guidelines (See § 70-7.1C)</i>	BA	BA	BA	No	No	No	No	No
<i>Elderly housing(See § 70-7.1E.)</i>	No	No	BA	No	No	No	No	No
<i>Other multifamily (See § 70-7.1G.)</i>	No	No	BA	No	No	No	No	No

Amend §70-9.2 by adding the following;

DWELLING, THREE-FAMILY

A detached structure containing three dwelling units.

Amend §70-7.1.G by deleting the language shown below with a strikethrough line and adding the language in italics.

Other multifamily development. In districts where authorized in § 70-3.3, Use Regulation Schedule, new dwellings containing more than ~~two~~ **three** but not more than 16 dwelling units may be authorized on special permit, provided that the following are complied with:

This proposal will allow Three Unit Buildings in our General Residence Zone by right. These buildings are neighborhood scale and already exist in our community in multiple neighborhoods including South Street, Cole Ave, Southworth St, and Hoxsey St. These were built pre war before zoning came into effect and have been an accepted part of the fabric of Williamstown for years. This change will allow these “missing middle” housing types to be constructed again. They are at present allowed as “other multi family” and permissible only via special permit.

This proposal requires a majority vote of Town Meeting to pass in accordance with Chapter 358 of the Acts of 2020 which reduced the requirement from 2/3 majority for zoning amendments which allow “multi-family housing” (3 or more dwelling units) by right in “eligible locations”, as defined in G.L. c.40A, s. 1A..

The Planning Board unanimously recommends the adoption of this article. 5 - 0

The Select Board unanimously recommends the adoption of this article pending any changes. 5 - 0

REMOVING BARRIERS TO SMALL SCALE MULTI-UNIT HOMES- 4 Family

Article 23. To see if the town will vote to amend the Williamstown Zoning By-Laws, §70-3.3.A.1 Residential Uses, Use Table, by inserting the bold and underlined use and permissions, or take any other action in relation thereto;

	RR1	RR2 RR3	GR	LB	SG	V B	P B	LI
USES NOT LISTED	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
§ 70-3.3A Principal uses (See § 70-3.3B for accessory uses.)								
RESIDENTIAL USES	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	No
<i>Single-family dwelling</i>								
<i>Two-family dwelling</i>	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	No
<i>Three-family dwelling</i>	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	No
<u>Four-family dwelling</u>	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	No

<i>Detached accessory dwellings [See § 70-7.1D]</i>	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	No
<i>Other Multifamily</i>								
<i>Within major residential development guidelines (See § 70-7.1C)</i>	BA	BA	BA	No	No	No	No	No
<i>Elderly housing(See § 70-7.1E.)</i>	No	No	BA	No	No	No	No	No
<i>Other multifamily (See § 70-7.1G.)</i>	No	No	BA	No	No	No	No	No

Amend **§70-9.2** by adding the following;

DWELLING, FOUR-FAMILY

A detached structure containing four dwelling units.

Amend **§ 70-7.1.G** by deleting the language shown below with a strikethrough line and adding the language in italics.

Other multifamily development. In districts where authorized in § 70-3.3, Use Regulation Schedule, new dwellings containing more than ~~three~~ **four** but not more than 16 dwelling units may be authorized on special permit, provided that the following are complied with:

This proposal will allow Four Unit Buildings in our General Residence Zone by right. These buildings are neighborhood scale and already exist in our community in multiple neighborhoods including South Street, Cole Ave, Southworth St, and Hoxsey St. These were built pre war before zoning came into effect and have been an accepted part of the fabric of Williamstown for years. This change will allow these “missing middle” housing types to be constructed again. They are at present allowed as “other multi family” and permissible only via special permit.

This proposal requires a majority vote of Town Meeting to pass in accordance with Chapter 358 of the Acts of 2020 which reduced the requirement from 2/3 majority for zoning amendments which allow “multi-family housing” (3 or more dwelling units) by right in “eligible locations”, as defined in G.L. c.40A, s. 1A..

The Planning Board recommends the adoption of this article. 4 - 1

The Select Board recommends the adoption of this article. 4 - 1

REDUCTION OF LOT DIMENSIONS, GENERAL RESIDENCE

Article 24. To see if the town will vote to amend the Williamstown Zoning By-Laws, § 70-4.3 Dimensional Schedule as follows:

§70-4.3 DIMENSIONAL SCHEDULE

District	Min. Lot Area	Min. Lot Frontage (feet) [1]	MINIMUM YARDS (FEET)			Max % Bldg Cov.	Min % Open Sp.
			Front ²	Side	Rear		
General Residence	10,000 SF	400 66	30	15	15	20	-

This proposal will reduce the frontage requirement in General Residence and bring a substantial portion of lots in the district into zoning compliance.

This proposal requires a majority vote of Town Meeting to pass in accordance with Chapter 358 of the Acts of 2020 which reduced the requirement from 2/3 majority for zoning amendments which modify regulations concerning yard sizes, lot area, open space and similar requirements.

The Planning Board unanimously recommends the adoption of this article. 5 - 0

The Select Board unanimously recommends the adoption of this article. 5 - 0

LANDOWNER PETITION- SWEETWOOD MAP AMENDMENT REQUEST

Article 25. To see if the Town will vote to amend the Williamstown Bylaws, Chapter 70, Zoning (“Bylaw”) as follows:

Amend the Williamstown Zoning Map by rezoning Assessor’s Parcels 302-001-000 and 302-002-000 from Rural Residence District 2 (RR2) and Rural Residence District 3 (RR3) to Southern Gateway District (SG).

This article will rezone the property also known as 1611 Cold Spring Road and operated as Sweetwood of Williamstown to the Southern Gateway District (SG). The rezoning would permit Sweetwood to continue operating as an “Assisted living residence,” as

defined in the By-Law, while also permitting Sweetwood to lease existing vacant units to individuals that are not members of the independent living community.

The Planning Board unanimously recommends Town Meeting not adopt this article. 5 - 0

The Select Board made no recommendation on this article because it arrived too late for full consideration.

**LANDOWNER PETITION- CONVERSION OF EXISTING BUILDINGS TO
MULTIFAMILY USES BY RIGHT IN BUSINESS DISTRICTS**

Article 26. To see if the Town will vote to amend the Williamstown Bylaws, Chapter 70, Zoning (“Bylaw”) Use Regulation Schedule § 70-3.3, as follows:

Amend § 70-3.3A (1) Residential Uses, to permit the conversion of existing buildings in the Planned Business District (PB), Limited Business District (LD) and Southern Gateway District (SG) to multifamily dwellings by right. Also, to amend § 70-3.3A (1) so that new construction of multifamily dwelling units in the PB and LD, exceeding 20,000 sq. ft., will continue to require a special permit from the Board of Appeals. Also, to amend § 70-3.3A (1) so that any new construction of multifamily dwelling units in the SG district will continue to require a special permit from the Board of Appeals.

§ 70-3.3. USE REGULATION SCHEDULE	Districts							
	RR1	RR2 RR3	G R	LB	SG	V B	PB	LI
<i>Items which include defined terms are printed in italics.</i>								
§ 70-3.3A Principal uses (See § 70-3.3B for accessory uses.)								
Multifamily dwellings within business districts, new construction (See § 70-7.1H.)	No	No	No	SPS	BA	No	SPS	No
Multifamily dwellings within business districts, by conversion of existing building (See § 70-7.1H.)	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No

The Planning Board unanimously recommends Town Meeting not adopt this article. 5 - 0

The Select Board made no recommendation on this article because it arrived too late for full consideration.

TOWN MEETING REMOTE CLICKERS

Article 27. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to purchase electronic voting devices for future use at Town Meetings, and to authorize the Select Board to expend \$27,000 for this purpose; or take any other action in relation thereto.

The Select Board unanimously recommends the adoption of this article. 5 - 0

The Select Board intends to use ARPA funds.

DISPLAY OF FLAGS, SIGNS AND BANNERS ON SPECIFIED MUNICIPAL FLAGPOLES AND PROPERTIES

Article 28. To see if the Town will vote to adopt the bylaw 4-12 set out below, or take any other action related thereto:

WHEREAS, It is important that the Town of Williamstown have standards and a process to be able to express official, Town-endorsed messages that may be appropriately accompanied by ceremonial flag-raising, signs and banners; and

WHEREAS, For these expressions of official Town sentiment to be clearly construed by the residents of the Town, it is also important to clearly demarcate and codify that the Town's flagpoles are intended as locations for official expression of the Town's sentiments and are not intended to serve as a forum for free expression by the public; and

WHEREAS, The expressions of official Town sentiment may also be communicated by means of flags, signs and banners affixed to the ground and structures of specific municipal buildings and that such affixing is not intended to serve as a forum for free expression by the public;

NOW, THEREFORE THE TOWN ESTABLISHES THE FOLLOWING BYLAW;

DISPLAY OF FLAGS, SIGNS AND BANNERS ON SPECIFIED MUNICIPAL PROPERTIES

The purpose of this bylaw is to establish guidelines for the display by the Town of Williamstown of (1) flags on specific municipal flagpoles and (2) flags, signs and banners affixed to the ground and structures of specific municipal buildings.

This bylaw applies to (1) the use of flagpoles at the town hall, Field Park, town cemeteries, police station and department of public works buildings and (2) the affixing of flags, signs and banners to the grounds and structures of those buildings.

The Town's flagpoles subject to this bylaw are not intended to serve as a forum for free expression by the public. The structures and land of the municipal buildings subject to this bylaw are not intended to serve as forums for the affixing of flags, signs and banners for free expression by the public, though nothing in the bylaw is intended to

prevent free expression by the public at such locations through means other than affixing, including carrying of flags, signs and banners.

The following flags, signs and banners may be displayed by the Town as an expression of the Town's official sentiments:

- a. Flags in the following order of precedence: first, the United States flag; second, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts flag; and third, the P.O.W./M.I.A. (Prisoner of War/Missing in Action) flag as provided in 36 U.S.C. § 902;
- b. Flags, signs and banners for any of the above affixed to structures and land of the specific municipal buildings subject to this bylaw.

*The Town has no formal program for how to address requests from the public to fly flags from town flagpoles, or to determine what types of flags it wants to display as an expression of the town's own position. This article is in response to a recent Supreme Court case which teaches that it is helpful if the town has established a bylaw or program for governing flags on municipal property. The Supreme Court explained that a governmental entity has the right to speak for itself and is entitled to say what it wishes and to select the views that it wants to express. When a governmental entity does so, it is engaging in government speech. *Shurtleff v. City of Boston*, 596 U.S. ____ (2022). A key issue is the extent to which the government has actively shaped or controlled the expression and messages the flags send. Because Boston "had nothing—no written policies or clear internal guidance—about what flags groups could fly and what those flags would communicate" the Court found that Boston did not make the raising and flying of private groups' flags a form of government speech and so could not deny the particular request from a religious group that was at issue in that case. This article would ensure town control over what flags, banners and signs may be flown on town flagpoles at Town Hall and other town properties by having a discrete list of what may be flown from specific locations to reflect the town's sentiments.*

The Select Board unanimously recommends adoption of this article. 5 - 0

SENIOR CITIZEN PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION

Article 29. To see if the Town will vote to adjust the exemption amount and eligibility factors for the property tax exemption for senior citizens pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 59, Section 5, Clause 41C, by (1) reducing the age of eligibility from 70 years to 65 years; (2) increasing the current amount of the exemption from \$500.00 to \$1,000.00; (3) increasing the asset (whole estate) limits for eligibility for the exemption from \$28,000 to \$40,000 for a single person and from \$30,000 to \$55,000 for married persons; (4) increasing the income (gross receipts) limits for eligibility for the exemption from \$13,000 to \$20,000 for a single person and from \$15,000 to \$30,000 for married persons and (5) accept Clause 41D of said Section 5 so as to approve tying the asset (whole estate) and income (gross receipts) limits (as adjusted hereunder) to the percentage increase in the Consumer price Index published by the U.S. Department of Labor as reported by the Massachusetts Department of Revenue each year, to be effective for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2023, or take any other action relative thereto.

The Select Board unanimously recommends the adoption of this article. 5 - 0

The Town currently allows a limited property tax exemption for homeowners over age 70 so long as their income and assets are below certain levels. The statutory basis for this exemption is called 41C; the statutory reference is MGL c. 59, section 5, Clause Forty-first C. The statute allows these eligibility requirements and the amount of the exemption to be expanded by vote of Town Meeting, within limits set out in the statute. In addition, Clause 41D of the statute allows the limitations on income and assets to be modified annually based on the CPI, as determined by the US Department of Labor.

The Affordable Housing Trust, at its meeting of December 21, 2022, supported the expansions of the eligibility requirements, the increase in the exemption and the tying to annual increases in the CPI. These adjustments would aid the most economically challenged homeowners in our town. The table below shows the current elements of the 41C exemption criteria and the 41D annual adjustment, and how they would be modified by this article.

	Current 41C Criteria	Proposed Expansion – all are maximum allow by law
Age	70	65
Amount of Exemption	\$500	\$1,000
Limit on Assets	\$28,000 single, 30,000 married – no CPI adjustment under 41D	40,000 single, 55,000 married – annual adjustment based on CPI under 41D
Limit on Income	13,000 single, 15,000 married – no CPI adjustment under 41D	20,000 single, 30,000 married – annual adjustment based on CPI under 41D

CITIZENS PETITION - "RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF CHANGING THE STATE FLAG & SEAL OF MASSACHUSETTS"

Article 30. Whereas the history of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts is replete with instances of conflict between the European Colonists and the Native Nations of the region, who first extended the hand of friendship to the Colonists on their shores in

1620, and helped them to survive starvation during the settlers' first winters on their land;

Whereas members of the Native Nation for whom the Commonwealth of Massachusetts is named were ambushed and killed by Myles Standish, first commander of the Plymouth Colony, at Wessagussett (now Weymouth) in April of 1623, barely two years after the Pilgrims arrived;

Whereas the Colonial broadsword held by a white hand above the head of the Indigenous person on the Massachusetts Flag and Seal is modeled after Myles Standish's own broadsword, borrowed for that purpose from the Pilgrim Hall in Plymouth by the illustrator Edmund Garrett in 1884;

Whereas the belt binding the Native's cloak on the Flag and Seal is modeled after a belt worn by Metacomet, known to the English as King Philip, who was among the Indigenous leaders that resorted to a mutually destructive war in 1675-76 in defense of Native lands against Colonial encroachment;

Whereas the proportions of the body of the Indigenous person on the Flag and Seal were taken from the skeleton of an Indigenous person unearthed in Winthrop, the bow modeled after a bow taken from an Indigenous man shot and killed by a colonist in Sudbury in 1665, and the facial features taken from a photograph of an Ojibwe chief from Great Falls, Montana, considered by the illustrator to be a "fine specimen of an Indian," though not from Massachusetts;

Whereas the history of relations between Massachusetts since Colonial times and the Native Nations who continue to live within its borders includes the forced internment of thousands of so-called "praying Indians" on Deer Island, in Boston Harbor, where they died by the hundreds of exposure in the winter of 1675, the enslavement of Indigenous people in Boston, Bermuda, and the Caribbean Islands, the offering of 40 pounds sterling as bounty for the scalps of Indigenous men, women and children in Massachusetts beginning in 1686, increased to 100 pounds sterling for the scalps of Indigenous adult males by 1722, half that amount for Indigenous women and children;

Whereas Indigenous people were legally prohibited from even stepping foot into Boston from 1675 until 2004, when that Colonial law was finally repealed;

Whereas the 400th anniversary of the landing of the Colonists at Plymouth Plantation, which gave rise to the long chain of genocidal wars and deliberate government policies of cultural destruction against Native Nations of this continent, occurred in the year 2020, affording every citizen of the Commonwealth a chance to reflect upon this history and come to an appreciation of the need for better relations between the descendants of the Colonial immigrants and the Native Nations of the Commonwealth;

Whereas the land area now known as the Town of Williamstown, shares a rich Native history with modern tribal Nations such as the Stockbridge-Munsee Band of the

Mohican Indians, who inhabited this area long before the first colonial settlers arrived, in 1749;

Now, therefore, BE IT RESOLVED that the Town of Williamstown hereby adopts this resolution in support of the work of the Special Commission on the Official Seal and Motto of the Commonwealth, established by a Resolve of the General Court in 2021 and appointed by the Governor to recommend changes to the current flag and seal of Massachusetts, and in support of a new flag and seal for the Commonwealth that may better reflect our aspirations for harmonious and respectful relations between all people who now call Massachusetts home. The town clerk shall forward a copy of this resolution to Sen. Paul Mark and Rep. John Barrett, with the request that they support the work of the aforementioned Special Commission and advocate for a new flag and seal for the Commonwealth.

The Select Board unanimously recommends the adoption of this article. 5 - 0

CITIZENS PETITION - "RANKED CHOICE VOTING FOR WILLIAMSTOWN ELECTIONS"

Article 31. AN ACT RELATIVE TO RANKED CHOICE VOTING IN THE TOWN OF WILLIAMSTOWN

SECTION 1. RANKED CHOICE VOTING

(a) The terms below shall have the following meanings in this section.

"Batch elimination" is the simultaneous defeat of multiple candidates for whom it is mathematically impossible to be elected.

"Concluded ballot," a ballot that does not rank any continuing candidate or contains an overvote at the highest-ranked continuing candidate.

"Continuing candidate," a candidate who has not been defeated or elected.

"Election threshold," the number of votes sufficient for a candidate to be elected in a multi-seat election. It is calculated by dividing the total number of votes counting for continuing candidates in the first round by the sum of the number of seats to be elected and 1, disregarding any fractions, and then adding 1.

"Highest-ranked continuing candidate," the continuing candidate with the highest ranking on a voter's ballot. Where a ballot omits one or more rankings, the next highest ranking shall be used for determining the highest-ranked continuing candidate.

"Plurality voting," the voting system in which the candidate receiving the most votes is declared the winner, even if such candidate does not receive a majority of the votes cast in the election.

"Ranked choice voting," a method of casting and tabulating ballots in which voters rank candidates for office in order of preference.

"Last-place candidate," (i) the candidate with the lowest vote total in a round of the ranked-choice voting tabulation; or (ii) a candidate that is defeated in batch elimination.

"Overvote," a circumstance in which a voter ranks more than 1 candidate at the same ranking.

"Ranking" means the number or the numeric ranking assigned on a ballot by a voter to a candidate to express the voter's preference for that candidate. Ranking number 1 shall be the highest ranking, ranking number 2 shall be the next-highest ranking, and so on.

"Surplus fraction," the number equal to the difference between an elected candidate's vote total and the election threshold, divided by the candidate's vote total.

"Transfer value," the proportion of a vote that a ballot will count to its highest-ranked continuing candidate. Each ballot shall begin with a transfer value of 1. If a ballot counts to the election of a candidate under subsection (d), it receives a lower transfer value.

(b) All town offices shall be elected by ranked choice voting, except for a single-seat office when the number of certified candidates is less than or equal to 2, or a multi-seat office when the number of certified candidates is less than or equal to the number of seats to be elected. Plurality voting shall be used when ranked choice voting cannot be conducted. Ranked choice voting elections shall be tabulated in rounds pursuant to this section.

(c) In any single-seat election with ranked choice voting, each round shall begin by counting the number of votes for each continuing candidate. Each ballot shall count as 1 vote for its highest-ranked continuing candidate. Concluded ballots shall not be counted for any continuing candidate. If no candidate receives a majority of the first-choice votes cast, an instant runoff shall be conducted. In each round of the instant runoff, the vote on each continuing ballot for each continuing candidate shall be counted. Each continuing ballot shall count as one vote for the highest-ranked continuing candidate on that continuing ballot. Each round shall end with one of the following two outcomes:

(1) If there are more than 2 continuing candidates, the last-place candidate shall be defeated or the last-place candidates shall be defeated in batch elimination and a new round shall begin; or

(2) If there are 2 continuing candidates, the candidate with the fewest votes shall be defeated, the candidate with the most votes shall be elected, and tabulation shall be complete.

(d) In any multi-seat election with ranked choice voting, each round

shall begin by counting the number of votes for each continuing candidate. Each ballot shall count for its highest-ranked continuing candidate. Concluded ballots shall not count for any continuing candidate. In the first round only, the election threshold shall then be calculated. If no candidate reaches the election threshold, an instant runoff shall be conducted. In each round of the instant runoff, the vote on each continuing ballot for each continuing candidate shall be counted at its current transfer value. Each continuing ballot shall count as one vote for the highest-ranked continuing candidate on that continuing ballot. Each round shall end with one of the following three outcomes:

(1) If at least 1 continuing candidate has more votes than the election threshold, then all such candidates shall be elected. Each ballot counting for an

elected candidate shall be assigned a new transfer value by multiplying the ballot's current transfer value by the surplus fraction for the candidate. Each elected candidate shall be deemed to have a number of votes equal to the election threshold in all future rounds. If the number of elected candidates is equal to the number of seats to be filled then tabulation is complete. Otherwise, a new round shall begin;

- (2) If no continuing candidate has more votes than the election threshold and the sum of the number of elected candidates and continuing candidates is more than the sum of the number of seats to be elected and 1, the last-place candidate shall be defeated or the last-place candidates shall be defeated in batch elimination, and a new round shall begin; or
 - (3) Otherwise, the continuing candidate with fewest votes shall be defeated, all other continuing candidates shall be elected, and tabulation is complete.
- (e) Batch elimination shall apply to the largest possible group of continuing candidates such that the sum of the votes of candidates in the group is less than the individual number of votes of every continuing candidate not in the group, and provided that the number of continuing candidates not in the group is at least 1 more than the remaining number of positions to elect.
- (f) If there is a tie between the continuing candidates receiving the fewest votes in any round other than the first round, the candidate with the fewest votes in the prior round shall be defeated. If the continuing candidates remain tied, this process shall be repeated using the votes from the next closest previous round, until either one continuing candidate has fewer votes or there are no more previous rounds to examine.
- (g) The Town Clerk may make any changes to the ranked choice voting ballot and tabulation process necessary to ensure the integrity and smooth functioning of the election, provided that ranked choice voting shall still be used and the fewest number of changes are made to achieve such purpose.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon its passage, provided that there are at least 64 days till the next election, to allow for proper implementation.

The Select Board abstains from making a recommendation on this article. 5 - 0

CITIZENS PETITION - "DOG LEASING IN GENERAL RESIDENCE"

Article 32. Whereas:

Williamstown wishes to be a welcoming community for all its residents and visitors.

Whereas:

We care deeply about the safety and well-being of pets, wildlife, and people.

Whereas:

There is a growing trend of pet owners ignoring leash laws, putting themselves, their dogs, and others at risk. Dogs off-leash can not only frighten and injure other pets and

wildlife, but they can also attack people, causing physical and emotional harm. Moreover, off-leash dogs are more likely to run into traffic or get lost, injured, or even killed.

Whereas:

Several of these encounters have resulted in the citizen or their pet being put in danger or attacked. There were 108 calls to the WPD for dog bites and animal control support in 2021. There were 128 similar calls in 2022.

Whereas:

Pet owners need to be in control of their dog's while in public as an unleashed animal, free to roam can be a danger to itself, other pets, and citizens; and as an offleash animal darting across busy roads can cause vehicle mishaps that can result in injury or death to citizens OR to the dog in question;

Whereas :

An owner whose animal is unleashed is NOT in control of their animal no matter how well trained they claim the animal may be and as such their unleashed dog is free to react to the movements of other citizens and their pets without the owner having a means of control.

It is the responsibility of every dog owner to be in control of their pet at all times when out in public the only way to be sure that they are is for their pet to be leashed.

Therefore, be it resolved that:

By-law 10-4-a be amended

§ 10-4

Dogs required to be leashed.

A. Dog owners, keepers and persons otherwise in charge are required to restrain their dogs physically by leash ~~or by voice control~~ when they are not on the owner's property **in the General Residence district, on the Rail Trail, and any area designated off-leash for dogs.**

The Select Board recommends that the town not adopt this article. 4 - 1

*The petition signed by the voters contained a typo so the word which had intended to be "leashing" appeared as "leasing". Town officials may not alter wording in a petition. Regardless, the typo does not affect the intent and purpose of the article.

Appropriations from the Community Preservation Fund are funded by a 2% surcharge on the real property tax levy.

COMMUNITY PRESERVATION-COMMITTEE EXPENSES

Article 33. To see if the Town will vote to hear and act on the report of the Community Preservation Committee on the Fiscal Year 2024 Community Preservation budget, and to appropriate from the Community Preservation Fund FY2024 estimated annual revenues the sum of \$5,000 to meet the administrative expenses of the Community Preservation Committee for Fiscal Year 2024, 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. 5 - 0

COMMUNITY PRESERVATION-AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Article 34. To see if the Town will vote to appropriate from the Community Preservation Fund FY2024 estimated annual revenues, for affordable housing purposes, under the Community Preservation Act, the sum of \$120,000 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 recommends the adoption of this article. 3 - 2

COMMUNITY PRESERVATION-RECREATION

Article 35. To see if the Town will vote to appropriate from the Community Preservation Fund FY2024 estimated annual revenues under the Community Preservation Act, the sum of \$100,000, which funds shall revert to the CPA fund if not expended by June 30, 2025, to fund a grant to the Mt. Greylock Regional School District for recreation purposes with respect to an 8-lane track with field sport facilities and a natural grass playing field with drainage and irrigation for its teams and the greater community in Williamstown, MA, 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 recommends the adoption of this article. 4 - 1

COMMUNITY PRESERVATION-HISTORIC PRESERVATION

Article 36. To see if the Town will vote to appropriate from the Community Preservation Fund FY2024 estimated annual revenues, for historic preservation purposes, under the Community Preservation Act, the sum of \$50,000, which funds shall revert to the CPA fund if not expended by June 30, 2024, to fund a grant to the Williamstown Meetinghouse Preservation Fund, Inc., to renovate and preserve in the future the structure known as the Meetinghouse, currently owned by First Congregational Church of Williamstown, MA, 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 recommends the adoption of this article. 3 - 2

COMMUNITY PRESERVATION-AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Article 37. To see if the Town will vote to appropriate from the Community Preservation Fund FY2024 estimated annual revenues, for affordable housing purposes, under the Community Preservation Act, the sum of \$10,000 to fund a grant to the Williamstown Housing Authority for initiatives and programs related to furthering affordable housing in Williamstown, MA, 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. 5 - 0

COMMUNITY PRESERVATION-HISTORIC PRESERVATION

Article 38. To see if the Town will vote to appropriate from the Community Preservation Fund FY2024 estimated annual revenues, for historic preservation purposes, under the Community Preservation Act, the sum of \$35,000, which funds shall revert to the CPA fund if not expended by June 30, 2024, to fund a grant to the Williamstown Historical Museum to restore the 19th century Dolan-Jenks barn on the grounds of the Museum, 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. 5 - 0

WILLIAMSTOWN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Article 39. To see if the Town will vote pursuant to M.G.L. Chapter 40, Section 6A to transfer from the General Fund Unreserved Fund Balance the sum of \$50,000 for the Williamstown Chamber of Commerce to advertise the Town's resources, advantages, and attractions, in accordance with the application submitted to the Finance 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 Finance Committee unanimously recommends the Town vote to transfer from the General Fund Unreserved Fund Balance the sum of \$50,000 for the Williamstown Chamber of Commerce.

The Select Board unanimously recommends the adoption of this article. 5 - 0

*The appropriation for the Chamber of Commerce is intended to promote tourism.
The Chamber of Commerce appropriation is unchanged from the current year.*

WILLIAMSTOWN YOUTH CENTER

Article 40. To see if the Town will vote to transfer from the General Fund Unreserved Fund Balance the sum of \$77,000 for the Williamstown Youth Center to provide youth recreation services, in accordance with the application submitted to the Finance 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 Finance Committee unanimously recommends the Town vote to transfer from the General Fund Unreserved Fund Balance the sum of \$77,000 to support the Williamstown Youth Center.

The Select Board unanimously recommends the adoption of this article. 5 - 0

The Youth Center appropriation is unchanged from the current year.

WILLIAMSTOWN COMMUNITY PRESCHOOL

Article 41. To see if the Town will vote to transfer from the General Fund Unreserved Fund Balance the sum of \$50,000 for the Williamstown Community Preschool to provide preschool services for Williamstown residents, in accordance with the application submitted to the Finance 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 Finance Committee unanimously recommends the Town vote to transfer from the General Fund Unreserved Fund Balance the sum of \$50,000 to support Williamstown Community Preschool.

The Select Board unanimously recommends the adoption of this article. 5 - 0

The Community Preschool appropriation is unchanged from the current year.

SPECIAL LEGISLATION FOR ADDITIONAL SECTION 15 ALL ALCOHOLIC LICENSE

Article 42. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to petition the General Court for special legislation to allow for an additional alcoholic beverages license for the sale of all alcoholic beverages to be drunk off the premises and grant such license to Ashnit LLC, dba Gold Leaf Shop located at 240B Main Street, or take any other action related thereto.

The Select Board unanimously recommends the adoption of this article. 5 - 0

Williamstown Select Board

Date: April 10, 2023

Hugh Daley, chair
Jeffrey Johnson, vice chair
Andrew Hogeland

Jane Patton
Randal Fippinger

Approved by roll call vote at noticed Hybrid meeting of Select Board, April 10, 2023.