

Finance Committee (Fincom) Oct 20, 2025 - Special Town Meeting (STM) Handout

Article 7: Transfer of PFAS Settlement Funds

Finance Committee: Recommends (as expected to be amended on STM floor)

Finance Committee Comment: This article is expected to be amended on the Town Meeting floor to also include an additional payment which was not in the printed warrant – increasing the total to approx. ~\$777,350. Passing this article would transfer legal settlement funds already held by the Town to the Water Improvement Fund, a water enterprise capital fund. This would allow the Town to use this money to upgrade our water management and treatment facilities.

Article 11: Zoning By-Law Amendments: Section 9.2... (as printed in Warrant)

Finance Committee: Does Not Recommend (as printed)

Finance Committee Comment: Fincom did not recommend this article as printed in the Warrant due to concerns over the 15kWh limitations.

Article 11: Zoning By-Law Amendments: Section 9.2... (as expected to be amended on STM floor)

Finance Committee: Recommends (as expected to be amended)

Finance Committee Comment: It is expected to be amended on the floor of STM to remove the 15kWh and instead focus on defining limits of 20 kWh per individual unit, or 80 kWh for the aggregate of units. Protecting the Town's limited water supply is a top priority and concern. If this article does not pass there is currently no by-law mechanism to prevent large scale BESS in the WSPD. Fincom believes that increasing the cutoff with this expected amendment may accommodate future residential Green Energy development while protecting our water supply from commercial and industrial BESS uses which are typically scales of magnitude larger in MWh ranges.

Article 12: Citizens' Petition

Finance Committee: Recommends

Finance Committee Comment: The 2025 Annual Town Meeting (ATM) passed a citizen's petition to prohibit the use of anticoagulant rodenticides on Town-owned property and this article is currently under review by the Attorney General's Office (expected decision December 14, 2025). Many residents expressed concerns with the potential environmental impacts of these chemicals, but any further regulation would require the permission of the Commonwealth. Based on the majority support shown at the last Town Meeting, the Finance Committee believes that petitioning the Commonwealth for local control is in the interest of our town and the exercise of local democracy.

The Finance Committee's support of this article should not be taken as an endorsement of any potential future by-law. If Home Rule is granted there must still be a robust conversation within the Town on the potential environmental and economic impacts before deciding what bylaw would be best for Maynard.