



Town of Maynard, Massachusetts
Finance Committee

October 22, 2019

To Maynard Town Meeting Voters:

The Finance Committee (FinCom) is a seven-member committee appointed by the Town Moderator and serves Town Meeting voters—in accordance with Massachusetts General Laws (Chapter 39, Section 16) and Maynard’s Town Charter and By-laws—in three important ways:

1. Work throughout the year on behalf of Town Meeting voters and in collaboration with the Board of Selectmen, School Committee, Town Administrator, and other Town stakeholders to (a) research impartially and understand the Town’s finances and important financial trends, and (b) take proactive steps to make this understanding more accessible to Town Meeting voters.
2. Provide independent oversight of Town finances, representing the interests of Town Meeting voters.
3. Review and analyze all Town Meeting warrant articles and make informed recommendations for the consideration of Town Meeting voters as they decide how to vote.

Pursuant to this last point, the Town Charter expressly requires the FinCom to “report, in writing, its recommendations on every article contained in a town meeting warrant together with a statement of the reasons for each such recommendation.” These recommendations are provided below and in the printed Warrant.

The Charter also requires the FinCom to “hold one or more public hearings to permit public discussion of the subject matter of all articles contained in the warrant.” The FinCom held this hearing on **Monday October 21**.



FinCom Recommendations on October 2019 STM Warrant Articles

The FinCom’s recommendations to Town Meeting voters (and accompanying statements of reasons/comments) for Articles 1-5 have been **published in the printed Warrant (Article 1, page 5; Article 2, page 10; Article 3, page 12; Article 4, page 12; Article 5, pages 13-14)**. The recommendation and accompanying comments for Article 6 had not been finalized by the time that the Warrant went to press and so are provided below:

Article 6: Citizens’ Petition – Welcoming Town Regulation

FinCom Recommendation: Recommends

Comments: (Finance Committee):

Town Counsel Lisa Mead noted in “Recommendations/Guidance on Citizen’s Petition,” dated August 16, 2019, the following two points:

- a. Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 41, Section 97, “gives the Board of Selectmen the power to make ‘suitable regulations governing the police department and the officers thereof.’”

- b. “While the Town Meeting can make a recommendation that the Board of Selectmen adopt a policy or regulation related to the operation of the Police Department, they may not require the Board to do so as that power has been provided to the Board.”

These statements serve as clear guidance to Town Meeting voters that passage of Article 6 has the effect of making a recommendation to the Board of Selectmen (BOS), which the BOS may choose to take (or not take) action on in their role as Police Commissioners. (Indeed, the BOS could choose to take action even if Town Meeting voted against the warrant article.)

Also, the proposed language in Article 6 (just over four pages total) recommends adoption of a number of individual and distinct provisions. Both the BOS and the Maynard Police Department (MPD) have noted that, because the MPD already has well established regulations in place, some of these provisions are already reflected in current law or MPD regulations, others could be easily integrated into MPD regulations, and a few may prove to be inconsistent with best police practices or community safety.

Indeed, the BOS voted at its October 1, 2019, meeting to establish the Human Relations Committee to work within the Maynard community to take action to, among other items, “adopt policies and practices that encourage equal opportunity and equal responsibility for all people.”

Consequently, as a practical matter, Town Meeting voters should expect that, if Article 6 passes, and the BOS does choose to take action on any of the provisions called for in the article, such provisions would not likely be adopted in their present form and in their entirety. Rather, each provision would be integrated into the current MPD regulations after due consideration by the BOS in open meeting, which would include an assessment of the financial cost—if any—associated with adopting the provision.



In closing, the FinCom encourages all Maynard voters to attend meetings of the various municipal bodies—including the Board of Selectman, School Committee, Planning Board, and FinCom—throughout the year to become more informed and express their views about matters and challenges that our Town is working to address.

Respectfully submitted,

Ken Estabrook (Chair)
Jill Prendergast (Vice Chair)

P.J. Gauthier (Secretary)
Peter Campbell

Bob McCarthy
Tom Black

Alannah Gustavson