

2023 Annual Town Meeting
CONSENT AGENDA PROCEDURE HANDOUT
By Ellen Rutter, Town Moderator

INTRODUCTION:

To streamline the Annual Town Meeting, we will use a Consent Agenda. The Consent Agenda allows a single vote to pass a group of noncontroversial items, that is, articles on which all parties agree. Work on some Articles is incomplete, and the sponsors ask for a vote of "No Action." For other articles, the action is noncontroversial, and we foresee no debate.

PROCEDURE:

One of the first orders of business at this year's Annual Town Meeting will be a single motion to take action as requested in the Motions Document on all of the articles listed on the Consent Agenda.

1. After the motion is made, the Moderator will call out the numbers of the consent agenda articles individually. Any voter who would like to ask a question about one of the articles or wishes to debate one of the articles should step up to the microphone and say the word "hold" when the Moderator calls the article number.
2. Next, the Moderator will inquire whether the request is for a question or debate. Suppose the purpose of the request is to ask a question. In that case, the Moderator will attempt to obtain a satisfactory answer quickly.
3. However, suppose the purpose is to hold the article for debate. In that case, the article will be removed from the Consent Agenda and restored to its original place in the Warrant to be moved, debated, and voted on in the usual manner.
4. It is hoped that voters will remove articles from the Consent Agenda only in cases of genuine concern.
5. After removing the debatable articles on the Consent Agenda, the Moderator will request a motion to take the requested actions on the remaining articles on the Consent Agenda.

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion (Select Board): *I move that the Town take action by unanimous consent on the articles listed on the Consent Agenda as proposed in the Consent Agenda handout.*

- Article 2: FY 2023 Supplemental Appropriations and Transfers (ACTION)
 - Rationale: routine transfer to cover snow and ice costs funded from free cash.

- Article 3: Unpaid Bills from Previous Fiscal Years (ACTION)
 - Rationale: Town is required by law to pay prior tax year bills by law. Bills will be paid out of free cash.

- Article 8: Chapter 90 Highway Funds (ACTION)
 - Town Meeting action is for transparency and not required by law.
- Article 9: Transfer to Other Post-Employment Benefits Liability Trust Fund (ACTION)
 - Funding complies with actuarial schedule and is from free cash.
- Article 10: Transfer to the General Stabilization Fund (ACTION)
 - Funding ensures compliance with Town Financial policies and is from free cash.
- Article 11: Transfer to the School Special Education Reserve Fund (ACTION)
 - Funding implements prior Town Meeting direction and is from free cash.
- Article 24 Community Preservation Recommendations - Motion 3 (NO ACTION)
 - No action is required as negotiations for these parcels have not concluded.
- Article 30: Housekeeping - Delete Definition (ACTION)
 - Housekeeping item.
- Article 37: Accept Gift of Land - Turkey Ridge Subdivision (ACTION)
 - Accepting a gift agreed to through Planning Board approval of a subdivision.
- Article 39: Fruit Street Lease (NO ACTION)
 - No action is required as the Select Board has already been given authority to lease this land by the 2017 ATM.