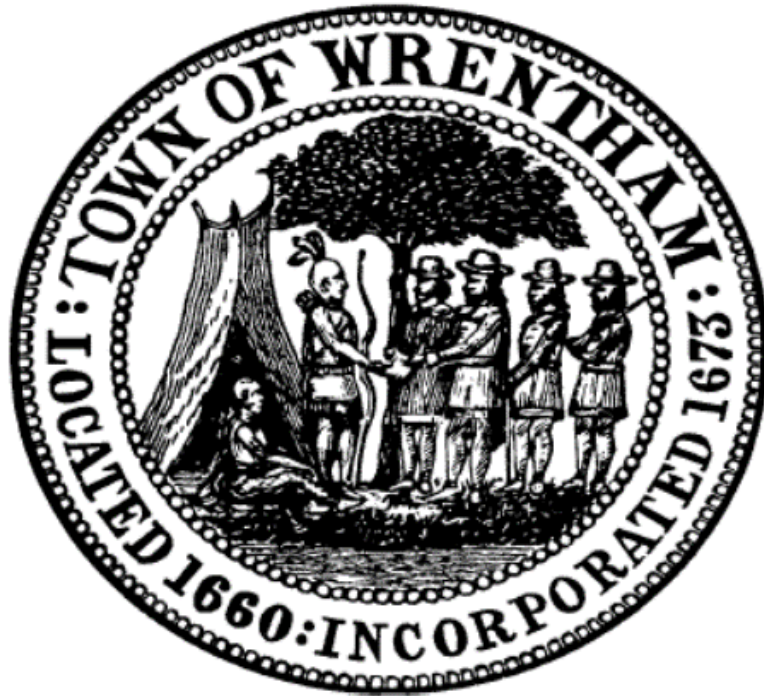


# TOWN OF WRENTHAM

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS



## REPORT TO VOTERS

for the

Monday, November 13, 2023 Town Meeting

King Philip High School  
Wrentham, Massachusetts

**Town of Wrentham, Massachusetts**  
**Report to Voters**  
**Town Meeting**  
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**Overview:**

This report provides a summary of the motions, recommendations and a brief explanation of the articles of business for the November 13, 2023 Town Meeting.

Presented By:

Board of Selectmen

Joseph Botaish, II, Christopher Gallo, James Anderson,  
William Harrington, Michelle Rouse

Finance Committee

Christopher Pflum, Dwayne Hancock, Joseph Kajano, Kristen Andreozzi,  
Paul Malagrifa, Stephen Johnson

Town Administrator

Kevin Sweet

## **Articles 2 to 4 to be moved by the Finance Committee**

### **Article 2:**

Move that the Town accept the provisions of M.G.L. c.40, §5G to establish a municipal waterways improvement and maintenance fund.

### **Discussion:**

The Massachusetts Department of Revenue has advised that the Town is required to establish a municipal waterways improvement and maintenance fund under M.G.L. c.40 §5G. The Town must establish this fund to fulfill M.G.L. c.60B §2, which directs that 50% of boat excise revenue collected be credited to the municipal waterways improvement and maintenance fund. Monies deposited in the fund can be expended for the management, enforcement, and improvements to the Town's waterways.

***The Finance Committee recommends that the Town vote to approve Article 2.***

### **Article 3:**

Move that the Town accept the provisions of M.G.L. c.44, §54(b) to allow trust funds held in the custody of the Town to be invested under the standards of the Massachusetts Prudent Investor Act of Chapter 203C.

### **Discussion:**

This local option statute was recently passed as part of the FY2024 state budget authorization. It enables municipal treasurers to apply the Prudent Investor Rule to optimize returns on trust fund monies, as defined in M.G.L. c.203c. Municipal treasurers are charged to balance safety, liquidity, and yield when investing public funds. This statute will allow the town to better construct portfolios with a wider selection of investments to meet these three goals when investing trust fund monies.

***The Finance Committee recommends that the Town vote to approve Article 3.***

### **Article 4:**

Move that the Town raise and appropriate the sum of \$6,561 to fund an unpaid bill from the prior fiscal year.

### **Discussion:**

Unpaid bills should be and in the past several years have been rare exceptions. They arise when bills for goods or services are received or discovered when their respective budgetary year has ended. These funds will pay for such an expense. This is a Town Clerk invoice from General Code for town meeting supplements that was billed late by the vendor.

***The Finance Committee recommends that the Town vote to approve Article 4.***

## **Article 5 and 6 to be moved by the Board of Selectmen**

### **Article 5:**

Move that the Town transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$800,000 and to transfer from Water Retained Earnings the sum of \$800,000 for the purpose of funding the design of the Public Works/Land Use Building Facility.

### **Discussion:**

The current DPW facility is a 50-year-old structure that is undersized, deteriorated conditions and unable to efficiently support the current operations. An updated facility will better connect our residents to services provided by the Department of Public Works with a more cohesive process and provide residents with a higher level of service. The Article will fund the design and prepare the Town will a full, shovel ready project to build the new facility.

***The Board of Selectmen & Finance Committee recommends that the Town vote to approve Article 5.***

### **Article 6:**

Move that the Town transfer from Free Cash the sum of One Million One Hundred Thousand (\$1,100,000) Dollars for the purpose of paying costs for a feasibility study for major renovation or replacement of the Roderick Elementary School, located at 120 Taunton Street in Wrentham, including the payment of all costs incidental or related thereto, and for which the Town of Wrentham may be eligible for a grant from the Massachusetts School Building Authority (“MSBA”), said amount to be expended under the direction of the Wrentham School Building Committee. The Town of Wrentham acknowledges that the MSBA’s grant program is a non-entitlement, discretionary program based on need, as determined by the MSBA, and any costs the Town of Wrentham incurs in excess of any grant approved by and received from the MSBA shall be the sole responsibility of the Town of Wrentham.

### **Discussion:**

The Roderick School has served the students and families of Wrentham since 1968. The town has invested in maintaining and improving the building, but it is nearing the end of its useful life. In 2022, the town submitted an application to the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) for support for a major construction project at Roderick School. MSBA received over 100 applications for school projects and selected ten, including the Roderick School. The Article is to fund feasibility of the current facility to determine whether major renovation or replacement should take place.

***The Board of Selectmen & Finance Committee recommends that the Town vote to approve Article 6.***

**Article 7 to 14 to be moved by the Charter Review Committee**

**Article 7:**

Move that the Town authorize the Board of Selectmen to petition the Legislature to amend the Wrentham Home Rule Charter, Section 116 of the Acts of 2014, by making content changes related to organizational structure, processes, procedures, and assignments related to the Town Administrator, Town Moderator, Town Planner, Police Department, Fire Department, Superintendent of Public Works, Finance Department, and any others as shown in the Draft Proposed Amended Wrentham Home Rule Charter dated 18 October 2023, and which is on file with the Town Clerk.

**Discussion:**

Proposed content changes are summarized in the below chart.

<b>New</b>	<b>Current</b>	<b>Change</b>
3.3(a)	3.3(a)	Change the Town Moderator term from one to three years
3.3(c)	3.3(c)	Delete Town Moderator from appointing the Capital Budget Planning Committee
3.6(a)	3.10(a)	Change how the 4 <sup>th</sup> and 5 <sup>th</sup> members of the Housing Authority are appointed to reflect statutory changes
4.1(a)	4.1(a)	Change Town Manager appointment from 3 to 5 years
4.1(a)	4.1(a)	Insert new words to require a vacancy to be filled as soon as possible
4.2(a)	4.2(a)	Simplify the appointment process of department heads and employees by the Town Manager
4.3(b)(viii)	4.3(viii)	Town Manager responsible for oversight of Library property
4.3(b)(xi)	4.3(xi)	Town Manager to serve as Library's chief procurement officer
5.1(b)	5.1	Add new words to provide Town Manager authority to reorganize, consolidate, or establish departments, commissions, boards, or offices under the Town Manager's direction and supervision subject to Select Board approval
5.8(a)	5.5(a)	Remove the requirement for an assessment process for appointing a Police Chief
5.8(b)	5.5(b)	Remove the requirement that all police officers be appointed in accordance with Chapter 31 of the General Laws (Civil Service)
5.9	5.6	Remove the requirement that all positions under the rank of fire chief in accordance with Chapter 31 of the General Laws (Civil Service)
5.10(a)	5.7(a)	Establish the Assessors office as a division within the Finance Department
5.12	5.9(d)	Remove the requirement for health agents (in absence of health department head) to coordinate day to day schedules with the Building Commissioner
5.13	5.10(b)	Delete the requirement for the town to maintain a development and permitting handbook or guide

New	Current	Change
5.13	5.10(c)	Remove the wording that the town may incorporate by by-law the practice of peer review for projects that require approval of two or more land use boards
5.15(c)	5.12	Adds words to require members of appointed standing boards to be residents of the town
6.1	6.1	Simplify the budget development process
6.2	6.2	Revise Capital Improvements planning to be conducted without a Capital Budget Planning Committee
7.7	n/a	Add a severability clause

**Article 8:**

Move that the Town authorize the Board of Selectmen to petition the Legislature to amend the Wrentham Home Rule Charter, Section 116 of the Acts of 2014 by adopting the omnibus changes, typographical error corrections, grammatical corrections, and title changes throughout the Town Charter as shown in the Draft Proposed Amended Wrentham Home Rule Charter dated 18 October 2023 and which is on file with the Town Clerk.

**Discussion:**

Editorial corrections include the following:

1. Change Board of Selectmen in all instances to Select board
2. Change Town Planner in all instances to Director of planning and economic development
3. Change Superintendent of Public Works in all instances to Director of public works
4. Change Town Administrator in all instances to Town manager

**Article 9:**

Move that the Town authorize the Board of Selectmen to petition the Legislature to amend the Wrentham Home Rule Charter, Section 116 of the Acts of 2014, by changing the Town Clerk from an elected position to an appointed position. To accomplish this, Section 5.4 of the Charter is to be revised as shown in the Draft Proposed Amended Wrentham Home Rule Charter dated 18 October 2023, and which is on file with the Town Clerk.

**Discussion:**

The powers and duties of this position are not being changed; the only change is from elected to appointed.

**Article 10:**

Move that the Town authorize the Board of Selectmen to petition the Legislature to amend the Wrentham Home Rule Charter, Section 116 of the Acts of 2014, by changing the position of Town Constable from an elected position to an appointed position. To accomplish this, Section 3.9 of the Charter is to be deleted and Section 5.14 of the Charter is to be inserted as shown in the Draft Proposed Amended Wrentham Home Rule Charter dated 18 October 2023, and which is on file with the Town Clerk.

**Discussion:**

The powers and duties of this position are not being changed; the only change is from elected to appointed.

**Article 11:**

Move that the Town authorize the Board of Selectmen to petition the Legislature to amend the Wrentham Home Rule Charter, Section 116 of the Acts of 2014, by changing the Board of Assessors from an elected position to an appointed position. To accomplish this, Section 3.5 of the Charter is to be deleted and Section 5.5 of the Charter is to be inserted as shown in the Draft Proposed Amended Wrentham Home Rule Charter dated 18 October 2023, and which is on file with the Town Clerk.

**Discussion:**

The powers and duties of this position are not being changed; the only change is from elected to appointed.

**Article 12:**

Move that the Town authorize the Board of Selectmen to petition the Legislature to amend the Wrentham Home Rule Charter, Section 116 of the Acts of 2014, by changing the Board of Health from an elected position to an appointed position. To accomplish this, Section 3.6 of the Charter is to be deleted and Section 5.6 of the Charter is to be inserted as shown in the Draft Proposed Amended Wrentham Home Rule Charter dated 18 October 2023, and which is on file with the Town Clerk.

**Discussion:**

The powers and duties of this position are not being changed; the only change is from elected to appointed.

**Article 13:**

Move that the Town authorize the Board of Selectmen to petition the Legislature to amend the Wrentham Home Rule Charter, Section 116 of the Acts of 2014, by changing the Board of Library Trustees from an elected position to an appointed position. To accomplish this, Section 3.8 of the Charter is to be deleted and Section 5.7 of the Charter is to be inserted as shown in the Draft Proposed Amended Wrentham Home Rule Charter dated 18 October 2023, and which is on file with the Town Clerk.

**Discussion:**

The powers and duties of this position are not being changed; the only change is from elected to appointed.

**Article 14:**

Move that the Town authorize the Board of Selectmen to petition the Legislature to change the Wrentham Home Rule Charter as voted at this 2023 Annual Fall Annual Town Meeting and submit same in its entirety and including Article I through Article VII accordingly that notwithstanding any other general or special law to the contrary, this shall be the Wrentham Home Rule Charter which is on file with the Town Clerk dated 18 October 2023.

**Article 15 to 18 to be moved by the Community Preservation Committee**

**Article 15:**

Move that the Town appropriate the sum of \$189,600 from the Budgeted Reserve account and the sum of \$10,400 from the Undesignated Fund Balance of the Community Preservation Fund, for the purpose of further funding the Conservation and Recreation Land Acquisition Fund that was established in 2022. Acquisitions must adhere to CPA land acquisition rules at the time of the acquisition, and a conservation restriction will need to be put in place for the acquired land. Funds appropriated must be used by December 31, 2035 or will be returned to their source, and no longer be available for expenditure on this project.

**Discussion:**

Please refer to the supplemental material provided for this Article.

***The Community Preservation Committee & Finance Committee recommend that the Town vote to approve Article 15.***

**Article 16:**

Move that the Town appropriate the sum of \$27,600 from the Historical Reserve account of the Community Preservation Fund, for the purpose of funding a part time archivist position and the purchase of supplies to be used by that archivist to catalog and preserve significant artifacts in the Historical Commission's possession. Funds appropriated must be used by December 31, 2025 or will be returned to their source, and no longer be available for expenditure on this project.

**Discussion:**

Please refer to the supplemental material provided for this Article.



***The Community Preservation Committee & Finance Committee recommend that the Town vote to approve Article 16.***

**Article 17:**

Move that the Town appropriate the sum of \$33,200 from the Open Space and Recreation Reserve account and the sum of \$4,800 from the Budgeted Reserve account of the Community Preservation Fund, for the purpose of funding weed mitigation, and prevention at Mirror Lake in an effort to preserve this open space in town. Funds appropriated must be used by December 31, 2025 or will be returned to their source, and no longer be available for expenditure on this project.

**Discussion:**

Please refer to the supplemental material provided for this Article.

***The Community Preservation Committee & Finance Committee recommend that the Town vote to approve Article 17.***

**Article 18:**

Move that the Town appropriate the sum of \$40,000 from the Open Space and Recreation Reserve account of the Community Preservation Fund, for the purpose of funding weed mitigation, and prevention at Lake Archer in an effort to preserve this open space in town. Funds appropriated must be used by December 31, 2025 or will be returned to their source, and no longer be available for expenditure on this project.

**Discussion:**

Please refer to the supplemental material provided for this Article.

***The Community Preservation Committee & Finance Committee recommend that the Town vote to approve Article 18.***