

2025 Annual Town Meeting
CONSENT AGENDA PROCEDURE HANDOUT
By Connor Degan, Acting 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 may be incomplete, and the sponsors ask for a vote of "No Action." For other articles, the action is noncontroversial or a formality, 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 (Moderator): 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 1: Acceptance of Town Reports
 - Rationale: Routine acceptance of town reports.

- Article 2: FY 2025 Supplemental Appropriations and Transfers (NO ACTION)
 - Rationale: No supplemental appropriations or transfers for Fiscal Year 2025.
- Article 6: FY 2026 Revolving Funds Spending Limits
 - Rationale: Revolving Funds are considered cash accounts of the Town. Spending limits are provided as required by law.
- Article 7: PEG Access and Cable Related Funding
 - Rationale: This is a self-sustaining revolving fund that is used to fund cable related expenses.
- Article 8: Chapter 90 Highway Funds
 - Rationale: Inclusion in Town Meeting is for transparency and not required by law.
- Article 9: Transfer to the Other Post-Employment Benefits Liability Trust Fund
 - Rationale: Funding complies with actuarial schedule and is from free cash.
- Article 10: Transfer to the General Stabilization Fund
 - Rationale: Funding ensures compliance with Town Financial policies and is from free cash.
- Article 25: Community Preservation Funds
 - Rationale: Allocations from Community Preservation annual reserves. The 10% reserve allocation is the minimum required by law and is standard year over year.
- Article 35: Accept Gift of Land - 0 John Matthew Road
 - Rationale: Accepting a gift agreed to through the Open Space Preservation Commission.
- Article 36: Accept Gift of Land - 69 Frankland Road
 - Rationale: Accepting a gift agreed to through the Open Space Preservation Commission.
- Article 38: Temporary Easement at 32 Chestnut Street for Sidewalk Construction
 - Rationale: A temporary easement necessary for the construction of a sidewalk on Chestnut Street.
- Article 41: Accept “Prudent Investment Rule”
 - Rationale: Town Meeting approved a petition to the Legislature in 2022 to use the Prudent Investor Rule. The petition was submitted but was not approved; the Legislature instead modified the law statewide. The new legislation allows this Rule to be approved by Town Meeting.