



TOWN OF BELMONT
455 CONCORD AVENUE
BELMONT, MASSACHUSETTS
02478

MICHAEL J. WIDMER
TOWN MODERATOR

mike.j.widmer@gmail.com
617-489-1822 (home)

March 1, 2021

By Hand

Roy Epstein, Chair Belmont Select Board
455 Concord Avenue
Belmont, MA 02478

Re: 2021 Annual Town Meeting – Request to Call Meeting to be Held by Remote Participation

Dear Mr. Epstein and Members of the Select Board:

I am hereby requesting, in my capacity as Town Moderator, that the Select Board call for the 2021 Annual Town Meeting to be held through remote participation because of the public health and safety risk presented by holding a physical meeting with 300 people. This letter is intended to conform to the requirements of Chapter 92 of the Acts of 2020.

Such a meeting would be conducted using a combination of technologies, described in more detail below, that will allow Town Meeting Members (TMMs) to see and hear the Moderator and all other participants, to be recognized and address the meeting, and to vote securely. This combination of technologies will allow non-TMMs to see and hear the proceedings and, when authorized in advance by the Moderator, to address the meeting in the same manner as is the practice in Belmont. It will allow TMMs to signal the Moderator when they wish to address the pending question and be put in line to speak, as is customary at live Town Meetings, to determine whether a quorum is present, to raise a point of order where appropriate, and to determine whether their votes have been properly recorded. The technologies will allow interested members of the public to watch the meeting remotely for purposes of witnessing the meeting and it allows for the meeting to be recorded so that the proceedings can be heard and viewed at a later time. Lastly, our court reporter would be creating the word-by-word transcript as required by Belmont General Bylaw §20-210.

The combination of technology methods I am proposing includes the following:

- TMMs will attend the meeting and vote using "TurningPoint," a secure online application operated by Turning Technologies, the same company that provides

Belmont Select Board

Request for the 2021 Annual Town Meeting by Remote Participation

the electronic voting system acquired by the Town and used at Town Meetings since 2014. Each TMM will be assigned unique login credentials to use the system. TMMs who are logged in through TurningPoint will be deemed present at the meeting and will be able to vote using its features. All votes will be recorded electronically and the vote of each TMM will be displayed on the screen so that each member can verify that his or her vote was correctly recorded, as a roll call vote.

- Active participation in the meeting will be conducted through "Zoom," a proprietary video conferencing platform (<https://zoom.us/>). The Town currently has a license to conduct a Zoom meeting with up to 500 participants. This number is sufficient to accommodate the 288 TMMs from the Town's 8 precincts, the at-large members, and town officials and staff, with more than sufficient additional capacity for additional speakers if necessary. All approved speakers and TMMs will be issued an invitation allowing them to log in to the meeting from a desktop or laptop computer, tablet or smartphone, or to call into the meeting with any telephone (audio only). For security and clarity of presentation, the screen and the audio will be controlled by Town staff acting under my direction, as is our custom. All speakers will be muted until recognized by the Moderator. TMMs may use the "raise hand" feature of the software to get in line to speak, and will be recognized in order, unless I choose to recognize a town official to answer a question or address a particular point. Any non –TMM who has made arrangements with me in advance of the meeting to speak can be recognized in a similar manner.
- Town officials and staff will participate by logging in to the Zoom meeting in the same manner.
- If a TMM has a point of order, it can be raised by using the "Q&A" feature, which will be monitored by one of my staff assistants so that any such point of order can be brought to my attention promptly. This same feature would allow a TMM who does not have a microphone to contribute to the meeting, as above, with a member of the staff reading the comments and questions submitted through the Q&A feature so that they may be entered into the record.
- The Zoom video and audio feed will be simultaneously broadcast by Belmont Media on local cable stations and by livestreaming on the internet. It will also be simultaneously recorded for future viewing. Any member of the public, whether or not a Belmont resident, will be able to view the proceeding live. TMMs may choose to listen to and view the proceedings in the same manner, but will not be considered present unless also logged in to TurningPoint.

With the assistance and cooperation of the Town Clerk's office and the Town's Information Technology Department, I have tested these platforms and am satisfied that they will allow the conduct of a Town Meeting that will function in substantially the same manner as a Town Meeting conducted in a physical location and in accordance with the operational and functional requirements set forth in Chapter 92. Furthermore, Belmont held a successful Annual Town Meeting on June 16, 2020 that was attended by more

Belmont Select Board
Request for the 2021 Annual Town Meeting by Remote Participation

than 260 Town Meeting Members, using the combination of technologies described in this letter. Similarly, we held a successful Special Town Meeting through remote participation on September 21 and 23, 2020.

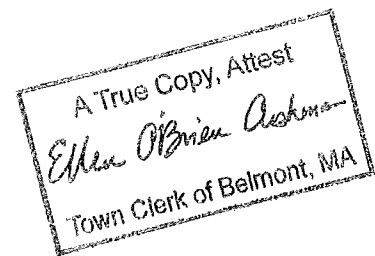
We will conduct further testing of these platforms in addition to training sessions and a warrant briefing which we propose to hold in the same manner prior to Town Meeting. Those training sessions and tests will allow us to ensure that all TMMs have the training and equipment necessary to participate fully, and to determine whether any adjustments are needed to the process to make sure it runs as smoothly as possible. I hereby confirm that I have conferred with the Chair of the Belmont Disabilities Access Commission about accessibility to the Town Meeting.

I appreciate your consideration of this request. Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

/s/ Michael J. Widmer

Michael J. Widmer
Town Moderator



cc: Patrice Garvin, Town Administrator (by email)
Ellen O'Brien Cushman, Town Clerk (by email)
George A. Hall, Jr., Town Counsel (by email)



TOWN OF BELMONT
TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE
455 CONCORD AVENUE
BELMONT, MASSACHUSETTS 02478

ELLEN O'BRIEN CUSHMAN
TOWN CLERK

TEL. (617) 993-2600
FAX (617) 993-2601

March 17, 2021

At a duly noticed public meeting of the Select Board of the Town of Belmont, held March 15, 2021, the following motion was made by Select Board Member Adam Dash:

Move to call the Annual Town Meeting for 2021 to begin on May 3, 2021 to be held by remote participation

The motion was approved unanimously 3-0 by roll call vote
Dash – Yes, Caputo – Yes, Epstein – Yes.

A True Copy, Attest:

Ellen O'Brien Cushman
Ellen O'Brien Cushman, Town Clerk



TOWN OF BELMONT
OFFICE OF THE SELECT BOARD
455 CONCORD AVENUE
BELMONT, MASSACHUSETTS 02478

selectboard@belmont-ma.gov

455 CONCORD AVENUE
BELMONT, MA 02478-2573
PHONE (617) 993-2610
FAX (617) 993-2611

SELECT BOARD

ADAM DASH, Chair
ROY EPSTEIN, Vice Chair
MARK A. PAOLILLO, Member

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR

PATRICE GARVIN

ASSISTANT TOWN ADMINISTRATOR

JONATHAN MARSHALL

April 12, 2021

Dear Town Meeting Members:

We look forward to seeing you at the Annual Town Meeting scheduled for 7:00 p.m. on Monday, May 3, 2021. It will be a virtual event conducted on Zoom. You will receive separate instructions from the Town Clerk on how to log onto the Zoom session and how to vote electronically in this remote meeting format. Please make sure to follow the instructions you should have received already from the Town Clerk on setting up an account on TurningPoint. You will need TurningPoint in order to vote.

Segment "A":

First Night is Monday, May 3rd, continuation dates are May 5th, 10th and 12th; all dates are via Zoom

Segment "B":

First Night is Wednesday, June 2nd, continuation dates are June 7th and 9th; all dates are via Zoom

The warrant articles and other documents you should review in advance of Town Meeting have already been sent to you electronically by the Town Clerk. There are twenty-two articles at present. If there are any amendments are filed in advance in the remaining time, they will also be sent to you electronically.

The Warrant and additional information can be found in the Town Meeting section of the Town Clerk's web page at www.belmont-ma.gov.

The customary Warrant Discussion Night, co-sponsored by the League of Women Voters and the Warrant Committee, is scheduled for April 15, 2021 at 7:00 pm. This will also be a Zoom meeting. The login information is posted on the calendar on the Town homepage.

We thank you for your continued devotion to our Town's affairs during this difficult time.

Sincerely,

Adam Dash
Chair

Roy Epstein
Vice Chair

Mark A. Paolillo
Member



MODERATOR'S MESSAGE ON TOWN MEETING PROCEDURES

Belmont's Town Meetings are conducted in accordance with the Massachusetts General Laws, our Representative Town Meeting statute, the General Bylaws, and traditional customs and practices that we have followed for many years, with guidance provided by the principles and rules of conduct in *Town Meeting Time, a Handbook of Parliamentary law*. Several matters of procedure are summarized below.

- An **article** in the Warrant provides notice to the Town Meeting of a matter to be considered. The article itself is not a specific proposal for action. A **motion** is a proposal for action by the Town Meeting and must be within the scope of the notice provided by an article in the Warrant. An article may not be amended but a motion may be amended by vote of the Town Meeting.
- Formal seconding will not be required on **main motions** under articles in the warrant. Seconding will be required on all other motions.
- All **main motions and proposed amendments** involving the expenditure of money must be in writing. All other motions and proposed amendments must also be in writing unless they are brief and simple as to be easily understood when stated orally.
- All substantive amendments and motions to be offered under an article in the Warrant must be submitted to the Town Clerk in writing not later than the close of business on the third (3rd) business day before the commencement of the session at which the Article is considered, in order to provide sufficient time for review by Town Counsel and the Moderator and to be made available for distribution to the Town Meeting Members before the commencement of such session. The Moderator may allow exceptions to the advance filing requirement in case of motions that are easy to understand, but such exceptions are within the exclusive discretion of the Moderator.
- Except for motions involving the expenditure of money or Bylaw amendments, the Moderator will first recognize the maker of the motion, if he or she wishes to speak.
- Before commencing discussion on motions involving the expenditure of money or Bylaw amendments, the Moderator will first call for committee reports as follows:
 - **Expenditure of Money** – Warrant Committee,
 - **Capital Improvements** – Warrant Committee, then Capital Budget Committee,
 - **General Bylaw amendments** – Bylaw Review Committee,
 - **Zoning Bylaw amendments** – Planning Board.
- Town Meeting Members wishing to speak should come to a microphone. When recognized by the Moderator, the Member should state his or her name and precinct number before commencing.
- Registered voters of the Town who are not Town Meeting Members may speak at the Town Meeting, but first must either arrange in advance with the Moderator for recognition or arrange to be introduced by a Town Meeting Member.

- Persons who are not Town Meeting Members may be admitted to the floor by invitation **but may not vote.**
- All discussion must be relevant to a motion before the town meeting. All speakers must address the Moderator; questions may be asked only through the Moderator. Speakers are limited to an initial question and one follow-up question. A Town Meeting Member who wishes to make a motion that is debatable must first make the motion and, after it is seconded, if required, the Moderator will recognize the maker of the motion to speak to it. The Moderator will not recognize a motion made at the conclusion of a speech. This, by definition, includes a motion that would terminate debate, such as a motion for the previous question.
- The Moderator will try to recognize Town Meeting Members in the order in which they come to the microphones. While our General Bylaws do not set a time limit for Town Meeting Members when speaking for the first time, the Moderator has established a limit of five minutes. Unless the Town Meeting consents no person may speak more than twice upon any question, except to correct an error or to make an explanation of a previous statement. No person should seek recognition to speak for a second time until others who have not yet spoken have had an opportunity to be recognized. The five-minute limit also applies to those speaking for a second time.
- Section 30-115(F) of our General Bylaws allows the Moderator to utilize electronic voting at his/her discretion. When not using electronic voting, the Section 30-115 further states that all votes shall be taken in the first instance by a “yes” or “no” voice vote. If the Moderator is in doubt as to the vote, or if any Town Meeting Member doubts the vote, the Moderator will call for an electronic vote. Any Town Meeting Member may also request a roll call vote; the request must be concurred in by 34 or more additional Town Meeting Members; and the request must be made in connection with final action under an article in the Warrant.
- Our Bylaws require that a Town Meeting Member who wishes to speak on an issue in which he or she or a member of his or her family has a direct financial interest, or in which he or she is engaged as an attorney or consultant, must first disclose this interest to the Town Meeting.
- A motion to reconsider a vote adopted at one session of a Town Meeting may not be made at an adjourned session of the same Town Meeting unless the mover has given notice of his or her intention either at the session at which the vote was passed or by written notice delivered to the Town Clerk by 12 o'clock noon on the first business day following the commencement of the session at which the vote sought to be reconsidered was passed. A two-thirds vote is required for reconsideration; no vote may be reconsidered more than once.
- Action on our general budget article will not be considered final so as to require a two-thirds vote for reconsideration, or any other procedures relating to reconsideration, until all action under that Article has been completed.

Any citizen who has questions about Town Meeting procedures is encouraged to email me at mike.j.widmer@gmail.com.

Michael J. Widmer

Moderator

You are invited to attend:

Warrant Briefing

Thursday, April 15th, 2021

at 7:00 PM

Viewing Options:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86589919600>

Zoom meeting ID: 865 8991 9600

Live broadcast: Belmont **Ch 8 (Comcast); Ch 28 (Verizon)**
Livestream or on-demand: belmontmedia.org/watch/govtv

Opportunity to ask questions about:

Warrant Articles

prior to

Segment A of

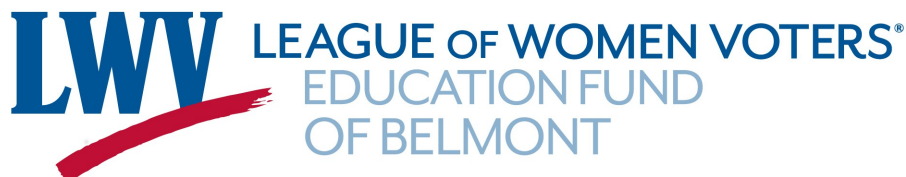
Annual Town Meeting, May 3rd

**Town Officials and Department Heads
will be present to provide information**

Laurie Slap

Chair of the Warrant Committee will preside

**Cosponsored by: the Warrant Committee
and the**



INDEX OF WARRANT ARTICLES

Article #	Title
1	Reports
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3	Authorization to Represent the Town's Legal Interests
4	Amend General Bylaw: Capital Budget Committee
5	Sanitary Sewer Easement – 100 Common Street
6	Cushing Square Road Discontinuance and Property Conveyance
CITIZEN PETITIONS	
7	Adopt MGL: The Brave Act
8	Amend §60-805 of the General Bylaws- Parking at Intersection and Enforcement
9	Skating Rink Building Committee
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10	Resolution to Establish Indigenous Peoples' Day
11	Resolution for Fossil Free New Construction
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12	FY22 Community Preservation Committee Budget & Projects
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13	FY21 Transfer Water Retained Earnings
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16	Enterprise Funds for Water Sewer and Stormwater Services
17	Establish Expenditure Limitation for Revolving Funds
18	Appropriation of Transportation Grant
19	Appropriation of Capital Expenditures
20	Appropriation to Other Post-Employment Benefits (OPEB) Stabilization Fund
21	Transfer to General Stabilization Fund
22	FY22 Budget Appropriation and Authorization To Transfer Balances to Fund the FY22 Budget



**TOWN OF BELMONT
WARRANT FOR 2021 ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
MAY 3, 2021
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS**

Middlesex, ss.

To any of the Constables of the Town of Belmont in said County:

Greetings:

In the name of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts you are required to notify and warn the Inhabitants of the Town of Belmont, qualified as the law requires to vote in elections and Town Affairs, to convene on May 3, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. by means of the audio/video conferencing platform described more particularly below, and to notify and warn the Town Meeting Members to convene by said method and act at said time on the Articles set forth on pages 2 through 15 of this Warrant.

The Town Meeting shall be held remotely by the means requested by the Moderator, as follows:

Interested members of the public may see and hear the proceedings by tuning in to the Belmont Media Center's live broadcast of the proceedings on Belmont cable television (Comcast channel 8, Verizon channel 28) or by live-streaming at www.belmontmedia.org.

Town Meeting Members will attend and vote by logging into a web page portal operated by the Town's electronic voting vendor with unique credentials that will be issued to each Town Meeting Member before the meeting.

Town Meeting Members and other participants approved by the Moderator who wish to address the meeting will participate in the meeting through the "Zoom" videoconferencing service. Login credentials will be provided to all Town Meeting Members. Registered voters who wish to address the meeting as approved by the Moderator may contact the Town Clerk's office for login credentials, 617-993-2603.

For more information, see the March 1, 2021 Moderator's letter to the Select Board appended to this Warrant as Appendix A.

**ARTICLE 1:
REPORTS**

To hear the report of the Select Board and other Town Officers, any Committee heretofore appointed and to act thereon.

This article accepts the reports of Town departments appearing in the Annual Town Report and allows the Select Board and other Town officers, boards and committees to report orally to the Town Meeting on appropriate matters not otherwise appearing on the Warrant. This article stays "on the table" throughout the Town Meeting to allow Town officials and committees to report at the call of the Moderator.

Majority vote required for passage.

ARTICLE 2: MUNICIPAL LIGHT BOARD CHANGE IN GOVERNANCE

To see if the Town will vote to establish a separate five-member Municipal Light Board for such terms as set forth in M.G.L. c. 164, § 55; said Municipal Light Board members shall be elected by the voters at the next annual town election, and further pursuant to M.G.L. c. 41, § 23 to rescind any prior vote authorizing the Select Board to perform the duties of the Municipal Light Board and to repeal section 40-200 K of the General Bylaws titled *Select Board*, "*The Select Board shall act as the Town's Municipal Light Board.*", or in any way act thereon.

This article will create a five member independently elected light board.

Submitted by the Select Board

The Select Board will report on this Article.

Majority vote required for passage.

ARTICLE 3: AUTHORIZATION TO REPRESENT THE TOWN'S LEGAL INTERESTS

To see if the Town will authorize the Select Board to bring and defend actions for and against the Town, to submit any such claims to arbitration and to enter into settlement on account of the same on behalf of the Town, as and when they deem it for the best interest of the Town to do so, or in any way act thereon.

This is a standard article that authorizes the Select Board to represent the Town's legal interests and to settle legal claims.

Submitted by the Select Board

The Select Board will report on this Article.

Majority vote required for passage.

**ARTICLE 4: AMEND GENERAL BYLAWS:
§ 40-405 A CAPITAL BUDGET COMMITTEE**

To see if the Town will vote to amend § 40-405 A. of the Town's General Bylaws titled Capital Budget Committee Bylaw as follows:

§ 40-405 Capital Budget Committee.

- A. There shall be a Capital Budget Committee of seven members, consisting of the Chair of the Select Board or a member of that Board designated by its Chair, the Chair of the Warrant Committee or a member of that Committee designated by its Chair, ~~the Chair of the Planning Board or a member of that Board designated by its Chair,~~ the Chair of the School Committee or a member of that Committee designated by its Chair and ~~three~~ **four** members who shall be appointed by the Moderator.

The Capital Budget Committee (CBC), in consultation with the Planning Board and Moderator, wish to change the designation of committee members. It is no longer relevant to have a member of the Planning Board on the CBC. A fourth member of CBC appointed by the Moderator will contribute more continuity as well as shift the voting balance to the appointed members rather than the representatives of other boards and committees.

Submitted by the Select Board

The Select Board, Capital Budget Committee and the Bylaw Review Committee will report on this Article.

Majority vote required for passage.

ARTICLE 5:

**SANITARY SEWER EASEMENT:
100 COMMON STREET**

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to acquire, by voluntary conveyance, purchase or eminent domain, a permanent easement containing 981 square feet, more or less, and identified on the plan titled "Proposed Easement Plan 86-100 Common Street" prepared by Brennan Consulting dated March 12, 2021, a copy of said plan being on file with the Town Clerk's office, or in any way act thereon.

This article will authorize the Select Board to create an easement to allow modifications to the sanitary sewer service at 86-100 Common Street, known as The Commons, in order to alleviate private property sewerage overflows.

Submitted by the Select Board

The Select Board will report on this Article.

Majority vote required for passage.

ARTICLE 6:

**CUSHING SQUARE ROAD MODIFICATION
AND PROPERTY CONVEYANCE**

To see if the Town will vote:

(a) to modify the layout of a portion of Trapelo Road as a public way, in the vicinity of 90 Trapelo Road, containing 965 square feet more or less, and shown as **"The Modification Section of Trapelo Road"** on a Plan entitled **"90 Trapelo Road, Belmont, MA 02478,"** dated March 26, 2021, made by Ashkar Engineering; a copy of which is on file with the Town Clerk's Office; and

(b) to transfer the care, custody, control, and management of said portion of land, pursuant to Chapter 40, Section 15A of the General Laws, containing 965 square feet more or less, and identified on a plan entitled **"90 Trapelo Road, Belmont, MA 02478,"** dated March 26, 2021, made by Ashkar Engineering; a copy of which is on file with the Town Clerk's Office, to the Select Board to be held for the purpose of conveyance, and to authorize the Select Board to sell such parcel in accordance with the applicable public bidding procedures contained in General Laws Chapter 30B, on such terms and conditions as the Select Board deems appropriate, or to do or act thereon.

The article would modify the layout of a portion of Trapelo Road that is not in use by the Town, allowing the land to be sold to the owners of the abutting parcels.

Submitted by the Select Board

The Select Board will report on this Article.

Two-thirds vote required for passage.

ARTICLE 7:**CITIZEN PETITION: MGL THE BRAVE ACT**

To see if the Town will accept the following provisions of Massachusetts General Laws as amended by the Massachusetts BRAVE Act: MGL Chapter 33, § 59; MGL Chapter 59 § 5N; and MGL Chapter 59 § 5 Clauses 22G and 22H regarding military veteran benefits; or in any way act thereon.

Submitted by Aaron Pikcilingis, Town Meeting Member
Precinct (6)

The Select Board, Warrant Committee, Board of Assessors and sponsor will report on this Article.

Majority vote required for passage.

ARTICLE 8:**CITIZEN PETITION: AMEND 60-805 OF THE GENERAL BYLAWS-
PARKING AT INTERSECTIONS AND ENFORCEMENT**

To see if the Town will vote to amend §60-805 of the General Bylaws of the Town of Belmont, with the purpose of increasing traffic safety so that motorists' views of oncoming traffic are not obstructed by illegally parked vehicles, by requiring street signs stating "No Parking Here to Corner", and increasing fines and enforcement, by making the following changes:

A. Amend §60-805.B(3) by deleting the words "or 20 feet of an intersection with another way".

B. Amend §60-805.B by adding a new item (8), to read as follows:

"(8) Parking within 20 feet of a road intersection is prohibited. The Town will install appropriate signs stating "No Parking from here to corner-Violators subject to fine and towing at owner's expense", or words to that effect, at all intersections in the Town of Belmont to the extent practicable. The Town will give priority to installation of such signs at the intersections located within 1000 feet of the Town's construction sites, and the intersections where violations more frequently occur; however, the absence of such signs shall not excuse a violation."

- C. Amend §60-805.G to increase the penalty for multiple violations of §60-805.B(8), by inserting the following sentence after the existing second sentence in §60-805.G:

"For the second and subsequent violations of §80-805.B(8), the penalty shall be \$100 for each offence, and, in addition, the vehicle may be towed at the owner's expense."

Or in any way act thereon.

Submitted by Adriana Poole, Town Meeting Member
Precinct (1)

The Select Board and the Bylaw Review Committee and the sponsor will report on this Article.

Majority vote required for passage.

ARTICLE 9:

**CITIZEN PETITION:
SKATING RINK BUILDING COMMITTEE**

To see if the Town will vote to establish a New Municipal Skating Rink Building Committee for the purpose of constructing a new public skating rink; to authorize the Town Moderator to appoint the New Municipal Skating Rink Building Committee to oversee the design and construction of said project; to authorize said New Municipal Skating Rink Building Committee to enter into contracts and take all actions necessary to carry out the schematic level design; or in any way act thereon, once monetary appropriations have been established.

The rink building and playing surface are terrible, fragile, past its useful life and not up to code. The wish is to see a building committee appointed, to get this project started immediately.

Submitted by Alex Corbett, Town Meeting Member
Precinct (8)

The Select Board and sponsor will report on this Article.

Majority vote required for passage.

ARTICLE 10:

**NON-BINDING RESOLUTION
TO ESTABLISH INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' DAY**

To see if the Town will vote to adopt the following resolution: Resolution to support the establishment of Indigenous People's Day in Belmont.

WHEREAS, Columbus Day was officially made a federal holiday in 1937 to be celebrated on the second Monday of October, with M.G.L. Part I, Title I, chapter 4, section 7, clause 18 setting aside the second Monday of October as a Massachusetts state holiday, and M.G.L. Part I, Title II, chapter 6, section 12V providing that the Governor declare that day to be Columbus Day; and

WHEREAS, Columbus Day commemorates the landing of Christopher Columbus in the Americas specifically on the Caribbean islands of The Bahamas on October 12, 1492 and, later, on Hispaniola (present-day countries of the Dominican Republic and Haiti); and

WHEREAS, the first voyage of Columbus to the Americas initiated the transatlantic slave trade, journal entries from Columbus show his desire to enslave the Indigenous populations of the Caribbean, and he subsequently imprisoned and transported many hundreds of people to this end; and

WHEREAS, Columbus' second voyage of 1493 was one of conquest, and his governorship of the Caribbean instituted systematic policies of slavery and extermination of Indigenous populations, especially the Taino/Arawak people whose population was reduced from millions to 100,000 during Columbus' reign, being further reduced by the continuation of his policies until near-extinction in 1542, with the example of the Taino/Arawak people indicative of the policies of Columbus and his men; and

WHEREAS, though the introduction of European diseases may account for some of these deaths, starvation and overt extermination policies were mostly to blame; and

WHEREAS, the devastation of Indigenous populations would lead to the kidnapping, deaths, and enslavement of at least 10-12 million African people, and the profound effects of the transatlantic slave trade and African diaspora continue to be felt to the present day; and

WHEREAS, the cultures of the Indigenous Peoples of the Americas are worthy of being promoted, their history is rich, diverse, and worthy of celebration, and the actions and policies of European colonizers of the Americas actively destroyed and suppressed parts of those cultures; and

WHEREAS, Indigenous Peoples of the lands that would later become known as the Americas have occupied these lands since time immemorial, and Belmont is on the ancestral territory of the Massachusett; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Belmont, Massachusetts (the "Town") has a history of opposing racism, this racism serving to perpetuate high rates of Indigenous poverty and leading to inequities in health, education, and housing; and

WHEREAS, the Town wishes to honor our nation's Indigenous roots, history and contributions; and

WHEREAS, the states of Alaska, Maine, Minnesota, New Mexico, South Dakota and Vermont, and many cities and towns across the United States including the Massachusetts municipalities

of Somerville, Cambridge, Brookline, Newton, Marblehead, Salem, Amherst, Provincetown, Mashpee, and Great Barrington have heeded the calls of Indigenous peoples to adopt Indigenous Peoples Day as a counter-celebration in lieu of Columbus Day, to promote Indigenous cultures and commemorate the history of Indigenous Peoples, and thereby use the occasion to reveal a more accurate historical record.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT TOWN MEETING URGES AS FOLLOWS:

1. The Select Board to establish that the second Monday of October henceforth be commemorated as Indigenous Peoples Day in Belmont rather than Columbus Day, in recognition of the position of Indigenous Peoples as native to these lands, and the suffering they faced during and since the European conquest,

2. The people of Belmont to observe Indigenous Peoples Day by reflecting upon the dispossession of the homelands and villages of the Massachusett people of this region who lived here for millennia prior to the arrival of European settlers, and upon the history of the other Indigenous Peoples who have lived in Belmont, and to celebrate the survival of Indigenous Peoples against all odds, as well as to celebrate the thriving cultures and values that Indigenous Peoples have brought and continue to bring to our Town and the wider community.

3. Belmont Public Schools to observe this day, with appropriate exercises and instruction in all schools around the time of Indigenous Peoples Day, to the end that the culture, history and diversity of Indigenous Peoples be celebrated and perpetuated,

4. The Select Board to encourage businesses, organizations, and public institutions to recognize and observe Indigenous Peoples Day;

or in any way act thereon.

Submitted by the Select Board

The Select Board will report on this Article.

Non-binding vote.

ARTICLE 11: NON-BINDING RESOLUTION FOSSIL FREE NEW CONSTRUCTION

To see if the Town will vote to adopt the following resolution: A Resolution Calling for the Legislature to Mandate Fossil-Free New Construction of Buildings in the Commonwealth.

WHEREAS, The Commonwealth of Massachusetts has a legally binding statewide obligation to substantially eliminate greenhouse gas ("GHG") emissions from all sources by 2050, as reconfirmed by the Baker Administration's Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs on December 30, 2020;

WHEREAS, Belmont has committed to a goal of 80% reduction in GHG emissions from 2007 levels by 2050, and the town's Energy Committee recommends prioritizing plans to achieve zero GHG emissions in Belmont by 2050;

WHEREAS, building emissions represent over 50% of GHG emissions across the entire Commonwealth and, as a result, new fossil-free buildings will be required in order to achieve the Commonwealth's goal;

WHEREAS, natural gas is a potentially dangerous fossil fuel that generates indoor and outdoor air pollution, and puts the health and safety of the Commonwealth's current and future citizens at risk, including recent violent explosions in the Merrimack Valley and elsewhere in the Commonwealth through explosive methane leaking from aging infrastructure;

WHEREAS, all-electric indoor heating systems, all-electric kitchen ranges and overall Zero Net Energy ("ZNE") buildings are operating in the Commonwealth today, are fully functional and cost-effective;

WHEREAS, the availability of renewable energy is growing and Belmont Light has committed to a 100% carbon-free power supply by 2022, facilitating fossil-free construction of new buildings in Belmont:

FOSSIL-FREE NEW CONSTRUCTION:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town of Belmont calls for the Massachusetts State Legislature to pass appropriate legislation in order to meet the Commonwealth's 2050 GHG 85% Policy by mandating fossil-free construction of new buildings in the Commonwealth by directing the Massachusetts Board of Building Regulations and Standards ("BBRS") to amend the State Building Code (780 CMR, 9th edition 2018) to restrict fossil fuel infrastructure in new construction statewide;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Town of Belmont calls upon the Legislature to direct the Department of Energy Resources ("DOER") to promulgate a Zero Net Energy stretch code that permits municipalities to adopt more stringent building codes mandating energy efficiency and electrification in the construction of all new buildings;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, we call upon the Massachusetts State Legislature to add four (4) energy efficiency members to the BBRS and to align the mission of the BBRS with achieving the Commonwealth's 2050 GHG 85% Policy and the specific goals enumerated in this Resolution;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, we call upon the Massachusetts State Legislature to mandate changes to the Gas Code, 248 CMR 4.00, promulgated pursuant to M.G.L. c. 142 §13, in order to allow municipalities to restrict gas permits in furtherance of the foregoing policy of fossil-free new building construction;

or in any way act thereon

Submitted by the Select Board

The Select Board and the Energy Committee will report on this Article.

Non-binding vote.

ARTICLE 12:

**FY22 COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE
BUDGET & PROJECTS**

To see if the Town will vote to act on the report of the Community Preservation Committee on the Fiscal Year 2022 Community Preservation Budget and to appropriate or reserve for later appropriation monies from the Community Preservation Fund annual revenues or available funds for the administrative and operating expenses of the Community Preservation Committee, the undertaking of Community Preservation Projects as summarized in the table below, and all other necessary and proper expenses for the year, or in any way act thereon.

Amount	Project Name	Category	Funding Source
\$35,000	Phase I – Consulting Services for Payson Park Renovation	RC	Open Space Recreation
\$200,000	Community Path Right of Way Acquisition	RC	Open Space Recreation
\$250,000	Transfer to Belmont Housing Trust	CH	Community Housing
\$190,000	Tennis Court Expansion – Winn Brook School	RC	Open Space Recreation

This article is a standard article that appropriates funds to support the operations of the Town's Community Preservation Committee and its approved projects. The Community Preservation Fund receives revenues from a 1.5% property tax surcharge to fund the program. The state provides limited matching grant funds to the Town based on the surcharge collections.

Submitted by the Community Preservation Committee

The Select Board, Community Preservation Committee, Warrant Committee, and Capital Budget Committee will report on this Article.

Majority vote required for passage.

ARTICLE 13:

FY21 TRANSFER WATER RETAINED EARNINGS

To see if the Town will to transfer \$320,000 from Water Retained Earnings to the Water Operating Budget for the purpose of reimbursing the Water Department operating budget's purchase of modulares, or in any way act thereon.

This article is a housekeeping article. Back in September 2020 Town Meeting authorized the purchase of the police modulares located at 40 Woodland Street. The proper paperwork was not filed with the Department of Revenue (who has requested this vote) allowing the Town to use FY21 Retained Earnings. The modulares were purchased within the general water budget, and this transfer is a reimbursement.

Submitted by the Select Board

The Select Board will report on this Article.

Majority vote required for passage.

ARTICLE 14:**SCHOOL REIMBURSEMENT**

To see if the Town will vote, pursuant to M.G.L. c. 44, § 70, to authorize the Superintendent of Schools, with the approval of the Select Board, to enter into contracts with the Executive Office of Health and Human Services (EOHHS), the Department of Children and Families (DCF) and the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) provide school transportation services to foster children and to receive reimbursement therefor, or in any way act thereon.

Under the federal "Every Student Succeeds Act" (ESSA), school districts are required to provide transportation for students in foster care, in certain situations. These transportation costs are eligible for federal reimbursement (currently at 20%) through a claims process coordinated by the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE), the Department of Children and Families (DCF), and the Executive Office of Health and Human Services (EOHHS). In order for the School Department to submit claims for reimbursement, the district must sign a standard Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with these three state agencies.

Submitted by the Select Board

The Select Board, Warrant Committee and School Committee will report on this Article.

Majority vote required for passage.

ARTICLE 15:**SALARIES OF ELECTED OFFICIALS**

To see if the Town will vote to fix the salary and compensation of each and all the elected officers of the Town, appropriate a sum of money for that purpose, determine how the same shall be raised, or in any way act thereon.

Elected Officials of the Town	Salary
Town Moderator	\$450
Chair of the Select Board	\$5,000
Select Board (2)	\$4,500 (each)
Town Clerk	\$104,446
Town Treasurer	\$108,697
Chair of the Board of Assessors	\$3,030
Assessors (2)	\$2,200 (each)

This is a standard article to comply with the provision in M.G.L. c. 41, § 108 requiring the compensation levels of all elected officers to be fixed at the Annual Town Meeting, and to appropriate the funds necessary for FY22. Please note that Town Meeting will establish and appropriate the compensation of other municipal employees under Article 22. The Town Clerk and The Town Treasurer salaries include a two percent (2%) COLA increase over FY2021.

Submitted by the Select Board

The Select Board and Warrant Committee will report on this Article.

Majority vote required for passage.

**ARTICLE 16: ENTERPRISE FUNDS FOR
WATER AND SEWER AND STORMWATER SERVICES**

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate a sum of money from the accounts classified as an "Enterprise Fund", pursuant to Chapter 44, Section 53F½ of the General Laws for water service, and for sewer and stormwater service; or in any way act thereon.

This is a standard article to appropriate funds to support the operations of the Town's water and sewer functions from enterprise funds that receive revenues from user fees. Enterprise funds are entirely self-supporting from user fees and do not receive any funding from property taxes.

Submitted by the Select Board

The Select Board, Warrant Committee and Capital Budget Committee will report on this Article.

Majority vote required for passage.

**ARTICLE 17: ESTABLISH EXPENDITURE LIMITATION
FOR REVOLVING FUNDS**

To see if the Town will vote, pursuant to Chapter 44, Section 53E½, of the General Laws, to establish expenditure limitations for FY2022 for the revolving funds authorized in § 50-220 of the Town Bylaws; or in any way act thereon.

This is a standard article that sets a limit on the amount of fee revenue that can be expended from the various revolving funds listed in § 50-220 of the Town Bylaws during the upcoming fiscal year.

Submitted by the Select Board

The Select Board and Warrant Committee will report on this Article.

Majority vote required for passage.

ARTICLE 18: APPROPRIATION OF TRANSPORTATION GRANT

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate a sum of money received from the Commonwealth Transportation Infrastructure Fund for the purpose of funding improvements to the Town's transportation infrastructure or any other public purpose substantially related to the operation of transportation network services, or in any way act thereon.

This article is to appropriate \$29,400.00 received from the Commonwealth as the Town's share of the Transportation Infrastructure Enhancement Trust Fund. The Town has decided to utilize these funds to help defer the costs of design work for intersection improvements at Mill Street, Winter Street and Concord Avenue.

Submitted by the Select Board

The Select Board and the Warrant Committee will report on this Article.

Majority vote required for passage.

ARTICLE 19:

APPROPRIATION OF CAPITAL EXPENDITURES

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate sums of money to purchase public safety equipment, computer equipment (including consulting work), public works equipment and furnishings and equipment for Town facilities, construct public ways, and for building and facility and public works construction, major maintenance and alterations (including design work); to determine whether these appropriations shall be raised by borrowing or otherwise, or in any way act thereon.

This is a standard article to appropriate funds for capital budget expenditures. While the article is general as to the categories of capital expenditures, the motion will be explicit. The recommendations of the Capital Budget Committee for FY2022 capital expenditures will be distributed to Town Meeting Members prior to the Annual Town Meeting.

Submitted by the Select Board

The Select Board, Warrant Committee, and Capital Budget Committee will report on this Article.

Majority vote required for passage.

ARTICLE 20:

**APPROPRIATION TO OTHER POST EMPLOYMENT BENEFITS
(OPEB) STABILIZATION FUND**

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate, or transfer from available funds in the Treasury, a sum of money to the Other Post-Employment Benefits ("OPEB") Stabilization Fund; and to determine whether the money shall be provided by the tax levy, by transfer from available funds, by transfer from the Departmental Enterprise Funds, or by any combination of these methods; or in any way act thereon.

This article seeks to appropriate from available free cash or other available funds for future Town liabilities for Other Post-Employment Benefits.

Submitted by the Select Board

The Select Board and Warrant Committee will report on this Article.

Majority vote required for passage.

TRANSFER TO GENERAL STABILIZATION FUND

This article seeks to transfer into the General Fund funds not needed for FY22 from the April 2021 Operating Override, if passed by the electorate.

The Select Board and Warrant Committee will report on this Article.

**FY22 BUDGET APPROPRIATION AND AUTHORIZATION TO
TRANSFER BALANCES TO FUND THE FY22 BUDGET**

This is a standard article that appropriates the Town's FY22 budget, commencing on July 1, 2021. The budget consists of several categories of expenditures; each such category, and the transfer of balances from various sources necessary to fund the General Fund Budget, will be presented for a separate vote of Town Meeting. The Warrant Committee Report contains the budget summary and supporting information and will be distributed to Town Meeting Members in advance of the Annual Town Meeting.

The Select Board and Warrant Committee will report on this Article.

Majority vote required for passage.



Given under our hands this 29th day of **March, 2021**

BELMONT SELECT BOARD

Roy Epstein, Chair

Thomas Caputo, Vice Chair

Adam Dash

A True Copy, Attest
Ellen O'Brien Dash
Town Clerk of Belmont, MA



MOTIONS
2021 ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
May 3, 2021
Draft as of April 12, 2021
(Subject to Change)

PRELIMINARY MOTION

ORDER OF THE ARTICLES

MOVED: That the Town Meeting hear the motions in the following order: *(Majority vote)*

ARTICLE 1:

REPORTS

MOVED: That Article 1 be taken from the table.

MOVED: That Article 1 be laid on the table. *(Majority vote)*

ARTICLE 2:

MUNICIPAL LIGHT BOARD CHANGE IN GOVERNANCE

MOVED: That the Town vote to establish a separate five-member Municipal Light Board for such terms as set forth in M.G.L. c. 164, § 55; said Municipal Light Board members shall be elected by the voters at the next annual town election, and further pursuant to M.G.L. c. 41, § 23 to rescind any prior vote authorizing the Select Board to perform the duties of the Municipal Light Board and to repeal section 40-200 K of the General Bylaws titled *Select Board*, "The Select Board shall act as the Town's Municipal Light Board."
(Majority vote)

Reporting: The Select Board and the Light Board will report on this article.

ARTICLE 3:

**AUTHORIZATION TO
REPRESENT THE TOWN'S LEGAL INTERESTS**

MOVED: That the Select Board be, and it hereby is, authorized to bring and defend actions for and against the Town, to submit any such claims to arbitration and to enter into settlement on account of the same in behalf of the Town, as and when they deem it for the best interest of the Town to do so; said power shall be vested solely in the Select Board.
(Majority vote)

Reporting: The Select Board will report on this article.

ARTICLE 4:

**AMEND GENERAL BYLAWS:
40-405 CAPITAL COMMITTEE**

MOVED: That the Town vote to amend **§ 40-405 A.** of the Town's General Bylaws titled Capital Committee Bylaw, as printed in the Warrant for this Town Meeting.
(*Majority vote*)

Reporting: The Select Board, Capital Budget Committee and the Bylaw Review Committee will report on this Article.

ARTICLE 5:

**SANITARY SEWER EASEMENT:
100 COMMON STREET**

MOVED: That the Town vote to authorize the Select Board to acquire, by voluntary conveyance, purchase or eminent domain, a permanent easement containing 981 square feet, more or less, and identified on the plan titled "Proposed Easement Plan 86-100 Common Street" prepared by Brennan Consulting dated March 12, 2021, a copy of said plan being on file with the Town Clerk's office.
(*Majority vote*)

Reporting: The Select Board will report on this Article.

ARTICLE 6:

**CUSHING SQUARE ROAD MODIFICATION
AND PROPERTY CONVEYANCE**

MOVED A: That the Town vote to modify the layout of a portion of Trapelo Road as a public way, in the vicinity of 90 Trapelo Road, containing 990 square feet more or less, and shown as "**The Modification Section of Trapelo Road**" on a Plan entitled "**90 Trapelo Road, Belmont, MA 02478**," dated March 26, 2021, made by Ashkar Engineering; a copy of which is on file with the Town Clerk's Office.
(*Majority vote*)

MOVED B: That the Town vote to transfer the care, custody, control, and management of said portion of land, pursuant to Chapter 40, Section 15A of the General Laws, containing 965 square feet more or less, and identified on a plan entitled "**90 Trapelo Road, Belmont, MA 02478**," dated March 26, 2021, made by Ashkar Engineering; a copy of which is on file with the Town Clerk's Office, to the Select Board to be held for the purpose of conveyance, and to authorize the Select Board to sell such parcel in accordance with the applicable public bidding procedures contained in General Laws Chapter 30B, on such terms and conditions as the Select Board deems appropriate.
(*Two-thirds vote*)

Reporting: The Select Board will report on this Article.

ARTICLE 7:

CITIZEN PETITION: MGL BRAVE ACT

MOVED: That the Town accept the following provisions of Massachusetts General Laws as amended by the Massachusetts BRAVE Act: MGL Chapter 33, § 59; MGL Chapter 59 § 5N; and MGL Chapter 59 § 5 Clauses 22G and 22H regarding military veteran benefits.
(*Majority vote*)

Reporting: The Select Board, and sponsor will report on this Article.

ARTICLE 8:

**CITIZEN PETITION: AMEND 60-805 OF THE
GENERAL BYLAWS-PARKING AT INTERSECTIONS AND ENFORCEMENT**

MOVED: To see if the Town will vote to amend §60-805 of the General Bylaws of the Town of Belmont, with the purpose of increasing traffic safety so that motorists' views of oncoming traffic are not obstructed by illegally parked vehicles, as printed in the Warrant for this Town Meeting.
(*Majority vote*)

Reporting: The Select Board, the Bylaw Review Committee and sponsor will report on this Article.

ARTICLE 9:

**CITIZEN PETITION:
SKATING RINK BUILDING COMMITTEE**

MOVED: That the Town vote to establish a New Municipal Skating Rink Building Committee for the purpose of constructing a new public skating rink; to authorize the Town Moderator to appoint the New Municipal Skating Rink Building Committee to oversee the design and construction of said project; to authorize said New Municipal Skating Rink Building Committee to enter into contracts and take all actions necessary to carry out the schematic level design; once monetary appropriations have been established.
(*Majority vote*)

Reporting: The Select Board, and sponsor will report on this Article.

ARTICLE 10:

**NON-BINDING RESOLUTION
TO ESTABLISH INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' DAY**

MOVED: That the Town vote to adopt the resolution to support the establishment of Indigenous Peoples' Day in Belmont, as printed in the Warrant for this Town Meeting.
(Majority vote, Non-Binding)

Reporting: The Select Board will report on this Article.

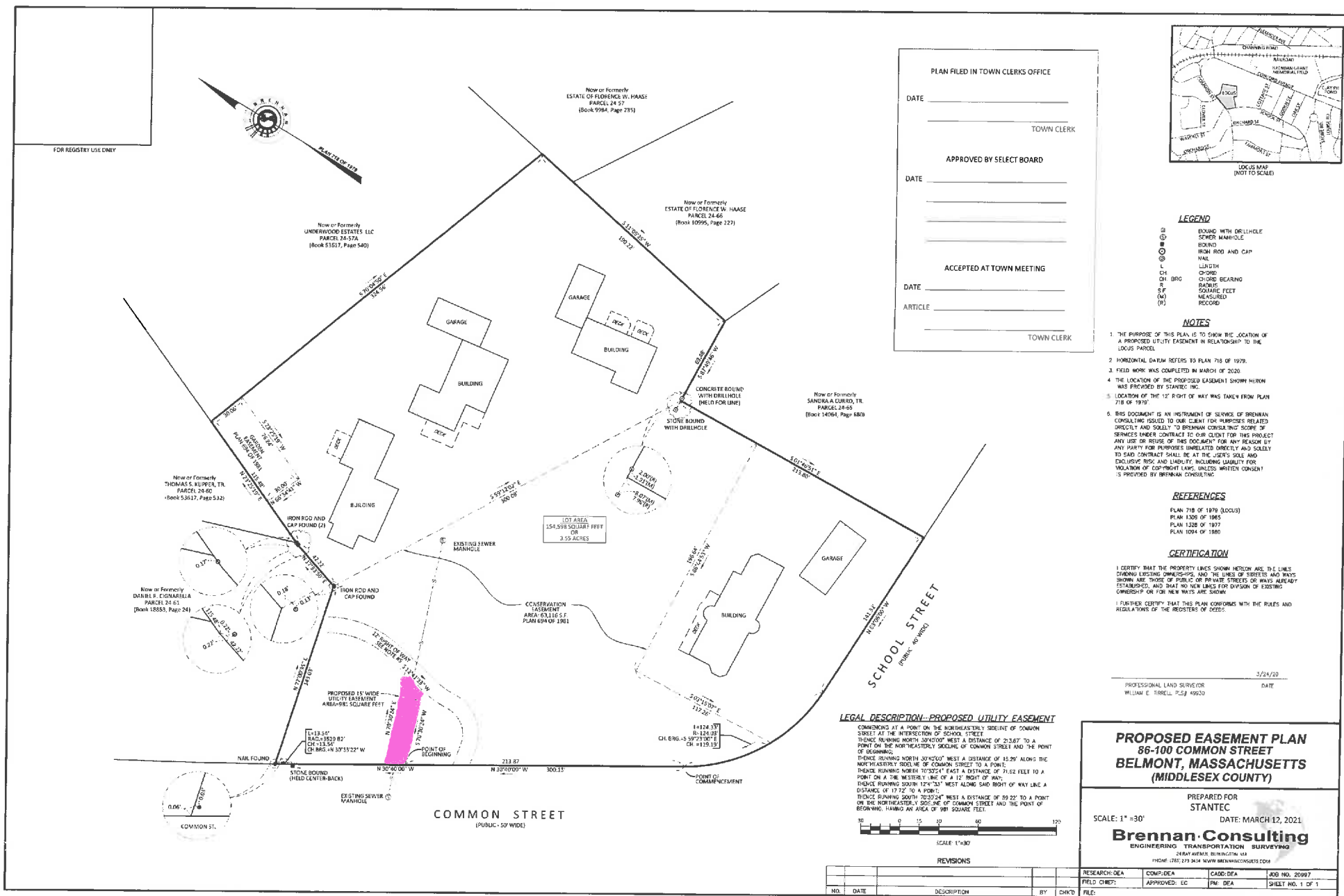
ARTICLE 11:

**NON-BINDING
RESOLUTION FOSSIL FREE NEW CONSTRUCTION**

MOVED: That the Town vote to adopt A Resolution Calling for the Massachusetts Legislature to Mandate Fossil-Free New Construction of Buildings in the Commonwealth; as printed in the Warrant for this Town Meeting.
(Majority vote, Non-Binding)

Reporting: The Select Board and the Energy Committee will report on this Article.









ORIGINAL STREET LINES AS SHOWN ON
PLAN BOOK: 200 - PLAN: 46

**The Modification Section of Trapezo Road
PARCEL # A (Area = 965.1 S.F.)**

Parcel A is being conveyed by the Town
of Belmont and deeded back to the ownership
of the existing Assessor's Lot # 5-125
(See Surveyor's Notes)

FOR REGISTRY USE ONLY

I hereby certify that this plan has
been prepared in conformity with the rules
and regulations of the Registry of Deeds
of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

I hereby certify that this survey plan
shows the property lines that are the lines
of existing ownerships and that the lines
of streets and ways shown are those of
public or private streets or ways already
established and that no new lines for
division of existing ownerships or for new
ways are shown.

Professional Land Surveyor

SURVEYOR'S NOTES:

1. The purpose of this plan is to show the conveyance of (Parcel A)
by the Town of Belmont and to be deeded back to the ownership
of the existing Assessor's Lot # 5-125
2. The described meets and bounds of (Parcel A) were conceived
originally through a Town Meeting and defined as a Taking by
the Town of Belmont. It was recorded in Deed Book: 5217 - Page: 121
and shown on a plan dated: November 25, 1927 and filed with the
Belmont Engineering Department under Plan No. 32, Folder No. 13.

This Taking was carved out from two original lots (Lot # 2 & Lot # 3)
and shown on a recorded plan at the MCSRD (Plan Book: 200 - Plan: 46)
and dated: November 27, 1911.
3. ZONING DISTRICT: LB1
4. THIS PLAN IS BASED ON AN " ON GROUND SURVEY. "
5. REFERENCES USED:
- Assessor's Parcel ID # 5 - 125
- Deed Book: 89568 - Page: 31
- Deed Book: 5217 - Page: 121 (Taking by the Town of Belmont)
- Plan Book: 200 - Plan: 46 (Lots # 2 & 3)
(Recorded at the Middlesex County South District Registry of Deeds)

**PLAN OF LAND
FOR**

" 90 TRAPELO ROAD, BELMONT, MA 02478 "

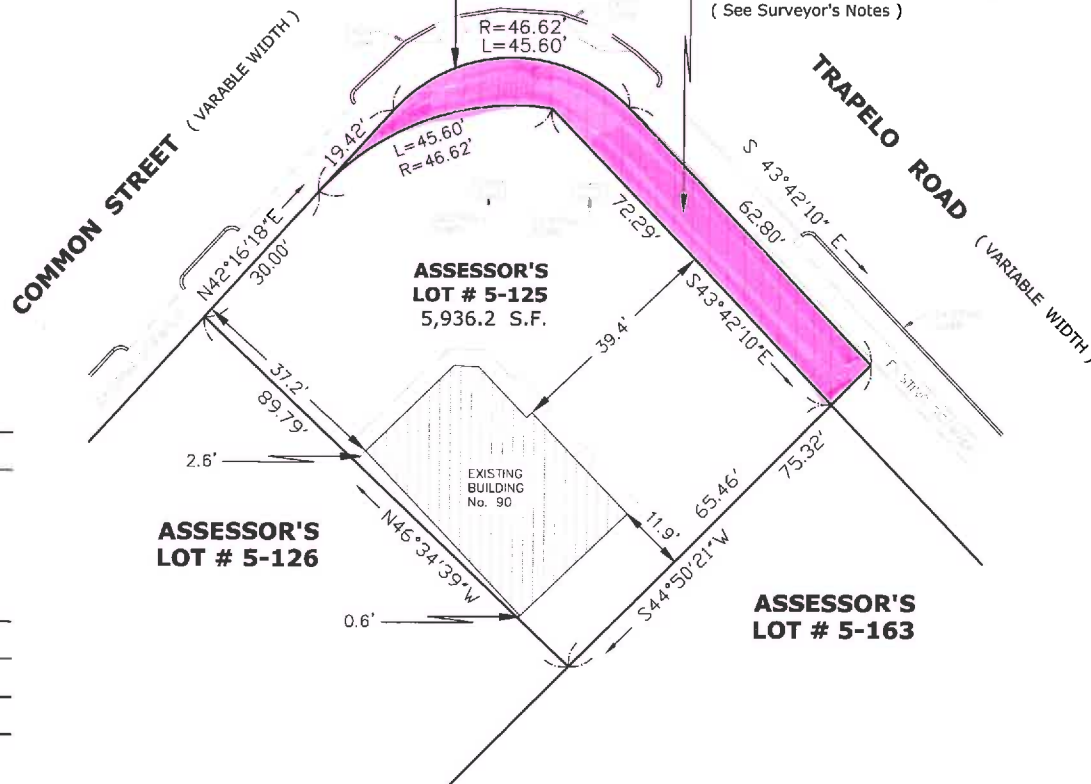
Prepared For: The Town of Belmont

Surveyed by: Michel G. El-Ashkar, PLS

Scale: 1"= 10 ft.

Date: March 26, 2021.

	FILE No. 2018-02-01
	 70 Washington Street Suite 306 Haverhill, MA 01830 ph: (978) 914-6527 fax: (978) 914-6528 www.ashkarsurveying.com
	SHEET 1 OF 1



PLAN FILED IN
TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE

DATE: _____

TOWN CLERK

APPROVED BY
SELECT BOARD

DATE: _____

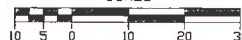
ACCEPTED AT
TOWN MEETING

DATE: _____

ARTICLE: _____

TOWN CLERK

GRAPHIC
SCALE



Article 10 – Amendment offered by Roy Epstein, Precinct 6

repstein@belmont-ma.gov

Moved : to amend Article 10 in the Warrant for the 2021 Annual Town Meeting by adding the following additional Whereas clause after the last Whereas clause in the Article:

WHEREAS, Columbus Day was established to recognize the discrimination and injustices experienced by Italian Americans as well as their invaluable contributions to the United States, and the creation of Indigenous Peoples Day in Belmont as a counter-celebration to Columbus Day would in no way deny that history or diminish its significance.

The **revised** text would be:

WHEREAS, the states of Alaska, Maine, Minnesota, New Mexico, South Dakota and Vermont, and many cities and towns across the United States including the Massachusetts municipalities of Somerville, Cambridge, Brookline, Newton, Marblehead, Salem, Amherst, Provincetown, Mashpee, and Great Barrington have heeded the calls of Indigenous peoples to adopt Indigenous Peoples Day as a counter-celebration in lieu of Columbus Day, to promote Indigenous cultures and commemorate the history of Indigenous Peoples, and thereby use the occasion to reveal a more accurate historical record; and

WHEREAS, Columbus Day was established to recognize the discrimination and injustices experienced by Italian Americans as well as their invaluable contributions to the United States, and the creation of Indigenous Peoples Day in Belmont as a counter-celebration to Columbus Day would in no way deny that history or diminish its significance.

**Article 11 – Amendment offered by the Energy Committee, Marty Bitner, co-chair
Amendment to Main Motion, Article 11 by the Sponsor, Energy Committee**

(617) 817-6726

mbitner.belmont@gmail.com

On behalf of the Energy Committee, I move to amend the main motion of Article 11 by deleting the 3rd clause in its entirety, specifically:

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, we call upon the Massachusetts State Legislature to add four (4) energy efficiency members to the BBRS and to align the mission of the BBRS with achieving the Commonwealth's 2050 GHG 85% Policy and the specific goals enumerated in this Resolution;

A **redline** version of the original document showing the above edit is attached.

A Resolution Calling for the Legislature to Mandate Fossil-Free New Construction of Buildings in the Commonwealth.

WHEREAS, The Commonwealth of Massachusetts has a legally binding statewide obligation to substantially eliminate greenhouse gas (“GHG”) emissions from all sources by 2050, as reconfirmed by the Baker Administration’s Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs on December 30, 2020;

WHEREAS, Belmont has committed to a goal of 80% reduction in GHG emissions from 2007 levels by 2050, and the town’s Energy Committee recommends prioritizing plans to achieve zero GHG emissions in Belmont by 2050;

WHEREAS, building emissions represent over 50% of GHG emissions across the entire Commonwealth and, as a result, new fossil-free buildings will be required in order to achieve the Commonwealth’s goal;

WHEREAS, natural gas is a potentially dangerous fossil fuel that generates indoor and outdoor air pollution, and puts the health and safety of the Commonwealth’s current and future citizens at risk, including recent violent explosions in the Merrimack Valley and elsewhere in the Commonwealth through explosive methane leaking from aging infrastructure;

WHEREAS, all-electric indoor heating systems, all-electric kitchen ranges and overall Zero Net Energy (“ZNE”) buildings are operating in the Commonwealth today, are fully functional and cost-effective;

WHEREAS, the availability of renewable energy is growing and Belmont Light has committed to a 100% carbon-free power supply by 2022, consistent with a modest rate impact, facilitating fossil-free construction of new buildings in Belmont:

FOSSIL-FREE NEW CONSTRUCTION:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town of Belmont calls for the Massachusetts State Legislature to pass appropriate legislation in order to meet the Commonwealth's 2050 GHG 85% Policy by mandating fossil-free construction of new buildings in the Commonwealth by directing the Massachusetts Board of Building Regulations and Standards ("BBRS") to amend the State Building Code (780 CMR, 9th edition 2018) to restrict fossil fuel infrastructure in new construction statewide;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Town of Belmont calls upon the Legislature to direct the Department of Energy Resources ("DOER") to promulgate a Zero Net Energy stretch code that permits municipalities to adopt more stringent building codes mandating energy efficiency and electrification in the construction of all new buildings;

~~**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, we call upon the Massachusetts State Legislature to add four (4) energy efficiency members to the BBRS and to align the mission of the BBRS with achieving the Commonwealth's 2050 GHG 85% Policy and the specific goals enumerated in this Resolution;~~

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, we call upon the Massachusetts State Legislature to mandate changes to the Gas Code, 248 CMR 4.00, promulgated pursuant to G.L. c. 142 §13, in order to allow municipalities to restrict gas permits in furtherance of the foregoing policy of fossil