

**TOWN OF PETERSHAM
THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS**

SPECIAL TOWN MEETING WARRANT

**AT PETERSHAM TOWN HALL
MONDAY, JUNE 5, 2023
7:00 P.M.**

Worcester, County SS.

To either of the Constables of the Town of Petersham in the County of Worcester,

Greetings,

In the name of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, you are hereby directed to notify and warn the inhabitants of said Town of Petersham qualified to vote in the elections and in Town affairs, to meet at the Petersham Town Hall at 1 South Main Street, Petersham, on Monday, the 5th day of June 2023, at 7:00 p.m., then and there to act on the following Articles:

...

ARTICLE 1.

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate from available funds, take from the Stabilization Fund, or otherwise provide the sum of **\$46,510.00** to **eliminate the Fiscal Year 2023 Snow and Ice Account deficit**; or act in relation thereto.

ARTICLE 2.

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate from available funds, take from the Stabilization Fund, or otherwise provide the sum of **\$67,574.00** to **eliminate the Fiscal Year 2023 Nichewaug Inn & Academy Demolition Project deficit**; or act in relation thereto.

...

And you are directed to serve this Warrant, by posting up attested copies thereof at the Petersham Town Offices, Petersham Post Office, and Petersham Package Store, in said Town, seven (7) days at least before the time of holding said meeting. Hereof fail not and make due return of this Warrant, with your doings thereon, to the Town Clerk, at the time and place of meeting, as aforesaid.

Given under our hands this 18th day of May, 2023.

[Signature]

Annette Ermini

} Selectboard of Petersham, Massachusetts

[Signature]

Given under my hands this 19th day of May, 2023.

A true copy. Attest: [Signature]

} Constable of Petersham, Massachusetts

Worcester, SS

Pursuant to the within Warrant, I have notified the inhabitants of the Town of Petersham, Massachusetts by posting up attested copies at the Petersham Town Offices, Petersham Post Office and Petersham Package Store, seven (7) days before the date of the meeting, as within directed.

[Signature]

} Constable of Petersham, Massachusetts

**TOWN OF PETERSHAM
THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS**

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING WARRANT

**AT PETERSHAM TOWN HALL
MONDAY, JUNE 5, 2023
7:30 P.M.**

Worcester, County SS.

To either of the Constables of the Town of Petersham in the County of Worcester,

Greetings,

In the name of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, you are hereby directed to notify and warn the inhabitants of said Town of Petersham qualified to vote in the elections and in Town affairs, to meet at the Petersham Town Hall at 1 South Main Street, Petersham, on Monday, the 5th day of June 2023, at 7:00 p.m., then and there to act on the following Articles:

...

ARTICLE 1.

To receive the reports of Town Officers and Committees and act thereon.

— **CONSENT AGENDA (Articles 2–18)** —

ARTICLE 2. CONSENT

To see if the Town will vote to **authorize the Treasurer to enter into compensating balance agreements during Fiscal Year 2024**, as permitted by Massachusetts General Laws (MGL), Chapter 44, Section 53F; or act in relation thereto.

ARTICLE 3. CONSENT

To see if the Town will vote to **use the income of the William B. Spooner Fund as of March 31 of the current fiscal year at the Petersham Memorial Library for Fiscal Year 2024**; or act in relation thereto..

ARTICLE 4. CONSENT

To see if the Town will vote for the Treasurer **to use the Elizabeth Newton Charities Trust Fund and Elizabeth Newton Deserving Poor Trust Fund for assistance to Petersham veterans approved for benefits by Massachusetts Department of Veteran's Services** through the Local Veterans' Service Office for Fiscal Year 2024; or act in relation thereto.

ARTICLE 5. CONSENT

To see if the Town will vote **for the Conservation Commission to use the accumulated interest from the Evelyn V. Murphy Conservation Fund** as of March 31 of the current fiscal year for Fiscal Year 2024; or act in relation thereto.

ARTICLE 6. CONSENT

To see if the Town will vote **for the Conservation Commission to use the accumulated interest from the Lewis and Corrine Babbitt Wildlife Sanctuary Fund** as of March 31 of the current fiscal year, to be used at the Sanctuary for Fiscal Year 2024; or act in relation thereto.

ARTICLE 7. CONSENT

To see if the Town will vote to re-authorize a Revolving Fund pursuant to state law MGL, Chapter 44, Section 53E½ to be expended by the Treasurer **for fees due to the Electrical Inspector, Gas Inspector, and Plumbing Inspector**; the Accountant shall be authorized to effect transfers from this account as required to cover vouchers submitted for payment upon verification that the disbursement requested does not exceed receipts to date; and expenditures from said Revolving Fund shall not exceed **\$20,000.00** for Fiscal Year 2024; or act in relation thereto.

ARTICLE 8. CONSENT

To see if the Town will vote to re-authorize a Revolving Fund pursuant to state law MGL, Chapter 44, Section 53E½ to be expended by the Treasurer **for fees due to the Fire Chief**; the Accountant shall be authorized to effect transfers from this account as required to cover vouchers submitted for payment upon verification that the disbursement requested does not exceed receipts to date; and expenditures from said Revolving Fund shall not exceed **\$4,000.00** for Fiscal Year 2024; or act in relation thereto.

ARTICLE 9. CONSENT

To see if the Town will vote to re-authorize the **Town Clerk to deposit fee income generated from certificates, DBA's, Dog Fees, Genealogy, etc.** into a Revolving Fund account for payment of fees due as submitted for payment by the Town Clerk pursuant to the provisions of state law MGL,

Chapter 44, Section 53E½, said fund to be established from receipts of said income; and expenditures shall not exceed **\$2,600.00** for Fiscal Year 2024; or act in relation thereto.

ARTICLE 10. CONSENT

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the **Tax Collector to deposit fee income generated from collection of taxes** into a Revolving Fund account for payment of fees due as submitted for payment by the Tax Collector pursuant to the provisions of state law MGL, Chapter 44, Section 53E ½, said fund to be established from receipts of said income; and expenditures shall not exceed **\$10,000.00** for Fiscal Year 2024; or act in relation thereto.

ARTICLE 11. CONSENT

To see if the Town will vote to re-authorize a Revolving Fund, pursuant to state law MGL, Chapter 44, Section 53E½ for **deposits of all receipts for grave openings and from which the Selectboard and Cemetery Commission may make expenditures** to pay the costs thereof; and expenditures from said Revolving Fund shall not exceed **\$6,000.00** for Fiscal Year 2024; or act in relation thereto.

ARTICLE 12. CONSENT

To see if the Town will vote to re-authorize a Revolving Fund pursuant to state law MGL, Chapter 44, Section 53E½ for **deposits of fees collected under the Petersham School Committee Fee Schedule for use of the Petersham School Building**, to be expended by the Petersham School Committee for the purpose of repairs to the Building and replacement of equipment associated with the use of the Facility; and expenditures from said Revolving Fund shall not exceed **\$2,000.00** for Fiscal Year 2024; or act in relation thereto.

ARTICLE 13. CONSENT

To see if the Town will vote to authorize a Revolving Fund, pursuant to state law MGL, Chapter 44, Section 53E½ to be **expended by the Conservation Commission to pay for services and fees charged for the filing of hearing applications, to include retrieval fees, legal notices, clerical fees, postage fees, and the carrying out of duties required**; said fund to be established from receipts collected by the Conservation Commission and expenditures from said Revolving Fund shall not exceed **\$5,000.00** for Fiscal Year 2024; or act in relation thereto.

ARTICLE 14. CONSENT

To see if the Town will vote to re-authorize a Revolving Fund, pursuant to state law MGL, Chapter 44, Section 53E½ and pursuant to Local Cultural Council Regulations at 962

CMR 2:05, for **deposits of local funds collected by the Petersham Cultural Council**, to be expended by the Petersham Cultural Council for the purpose of carrying out its duties; and expenditures from said Revolving Fund shall not exceed **\$3,000.00** for Fiscal Year 2024; or act in relation thereto.

ARTICLE 15. CONSENT

To see if the Town will vote to re-authorize a Revolving Fund, pursuant to state law MGL, Chapter 44, Section 53E½ to be expended by the **Board of Health, to pay for consulting services as required by the Board of Health, said fund to be established from receipts collected by the Board of Health for fees for its services**; and expenditures from said Revolving Fund shall not exceed **\$10,000.00** for Fiscal Year 2024; or act in relation thereto.

ARTICLE 16. CONSENT

To see if the Town will vote to re-authorize a Revolving Fund pursuant to state law MGL, Chapter 44, Section 53E½ for **deposits of fees collected under the Planning Board Rules and Regulations Fee Schedule, to be expended by the Planning Board for the purpose of carrying out its duties**; and expenditures from said Revolving Fund shall not exceed **\$1,000.00** for Fiscal Year 2024; or act in relation thereto.

ARTICLE 17. CONSENT

To see if the Town will vote to re-authorize a Revolving Fund pursuant to state law MGL, Chapter 44, Section 53E½ **for deposits of fees collected under the Zoning Board of Appeals Rules and Regulations Fee Schedule, to be expended by the Zoning Board of Appeals for the purposes of carrying out its duties**; and expenditures from said Revolving Fund shall not exceed **\$3,000.00** for Fiscal Year 2024; or act in relation thereto.

ARTICLE 18. CONSENT

To see if the Town will vote to accept and **expend Chapter 90 Funds from the State for the purposes of road work**, said expenditures to be 100% reimbursed by the State; or act in relation thereto.

— END OF CONSENT AGENDA —

ARTICLE 19.

Fiscal Year 2024 OPERATING BUDGET

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, appropriate from available funds, take from the Stabilization Fund, approve subject to Proposition 2 1/2 Over-ride, or any combination thereof, **all necessary sums of money to pay Town Charges and Expenses for the Fiscal Year 2024 as per budgets submitted by the several Town Departments, as approved by the Advisory Finance Committee and as listed in the budget pages of this Report**, or any other amounts deemed to be sufficient; or act in relation thereto.

ARTICLE 20.

To see if the Town will vote to fix the salaries of all Elective Town Officers as provided in Section 108 of Chapter 41, General Laws as amended: **Moderator \$0; Town Treasurer \$20,743.00; Town Clerk \$15,600.00; Tax Collector \$15,600.00; Selectboard, Chair \$3,662.00; Vice Chair \$3,172.00, Clerk \$2,986.00; Board of Assessors, Chair \$3,662.00, Clerk \$3,172.00, other member \$2,986.00; Board of Health, Chair \$233.00, other members \$172.00 each; Trustee of Library FREE; Constables \$14.21/per hour; or act in relation thereto.**

ARTICLE 21.

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, appropriate from available funds, take from the Stabilization Fund, borrow, or any combination thereof, the sum of **\$103,485.00** to pay the Fiscal Year 2024 **principal and interest due on the construction note for the Petersham Center School building construction**; or act in relation thereto.

ARTICLE 22.

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, appropriate from available funds, take from the Stabilization fund, borrow, or any combination thereof, the sum of **\$19,275.00** to pay the Fiscal Year 2024 **principal and interest due on the construction note for the Ralph C. Mahar Regional School District school building construction**; or act in relation thereto.

ARTICLE 23.

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, appropriate from available funds, take from the Stabilization Fund, borrow, or any combination thereof, the sum of **\$40,970.00** to pay the **principal and interest due on the note for debt incurred for asbestos and hazardous materials removal at the town-owned building known as the Nichewaug Inn & Academy located at 25 Common Street**; as approved by vote of the Special Town Meeting of December 12, 2016; or act in relation thereto.

ARTICLE 24.

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, appropriate from available funds, take from the Stabilization Fund, borrow, or any combination thereof, the sum of **\$32,240.00** to pay the **principal and interest due on the note for debt incurred for project expenses for completion of the town-wide broadband network project**; as approved by vote of the Special Town Meeting of December 12, 2016; or act in relation thereto.

ARTICLE 25.

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, appropriate from available funds, take from the Stabilization Fund, borrow, or any combination thereof, the sum of **\$38,700.00** to pay the **principal and interest due on the note for debt incurred for purchase of the 2020 Quick Attack Pumper Truck for the Fire Department**; as approved by vote of the Annual Town Meeting of June 3, 2019; or act in relation thereto.

ARTICLE 26.

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, appropriate from available funds, take from the Stabilization Fund, borrow, or any combination thereof, the sum of **\$88,311.00** to pay the **principal and interest due on the note for debt incurred for demolition of the town-owned building known as the Nichewaug Inn & Academy located at 25 Common Street**; as approved by vote of the Special Town Meeting of June 6, 2022; or act in relation thereto.

ARTICLE 27.

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, appropriate from available funds, take from the Stabilization Fund, borrow, or any combination thereof, the sum of **\$5,000.00** for **Board of Assessors' Year Four of Five Years of payments for the Full Measure and List** of all real estate and personal property as required by State Law; or to act in relation thereto.

ARTICLE 28.

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, appropriate from available funds, take from the Stabilization Fund, borrow, or any combination thereof, the sum of **\$3,000.00** to serve as the **funding match required by the Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy & Environmental Affairs Fiscal Year 2024 Planning Assistance Grant for the Open Space and Recreation Committee to update the Town of Petersham Open Space and Recreation Plan**; or to act in relation thereto.

ARTICLE 29.

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, appropriate from available funds, take from the Stabilization Fund, borrow, or any combination thereof, the sum of **\$100,000.00 to purchase two new and equipped 2023 cruisers for the Police Department**; or to act in relation thereto.

ARTICLE 30.

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, appropriate from available funds, take from the Stabilization Fund, borrow, or any combination thereof, the sum of **\$10,000.00 for payment to purchase services for archiving and preservation of certain Town Records by the Town Clerk**; or to act in relation thereto.

ARTICLE 31.

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, appropriate from available funds, take from the Stabilization Fund, borrow, or any combination thereof, the sum of **\$10,000.00 for payment to purchase services of painting and general repairs of exteriors of Petersham Town Hall and Town Office Building**; or to act in relation thereto.

ARTICLE 32.

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, appropriate from available funds, take from the Stabilization Fund, borrow, or any combination thereof, the sum of **\$30,000.00 for deposit into the Reserve Fund** for Fiscal Year 2024; or act in relation thereto.

ARTICLE 33.

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, appropriate from available funds, take from the Stabilization Fund or any combination thereof, the sum of **\$1,800.00 for six (6) Petersham Brass Band concerts at \$300.00 per concert**, to be held during the summer; or to act in relation thereto.

ARTICLE 34.

To see if the Town will vote to **take the accumulated interest from the Consolidated Cemetery Fund 1 and 2, the E.M. Cook Cemetery Trust Fund, the L.L. Pond Cemetery Fund, and the William Smith Cemetery Fund for deposit into the Cemetery Repair Fund**, said fund to be expended by the Cemetery Commission for Cemetery improvements; or act in relation thereto.

ARTICLE 35.

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate from available funds the sum of **\$30,000.00** to the Petersham Municipal Light Plant Broadband Enterprise Fund for Fiscal Year 2024 town-wide broadband network operations; with **said funds to be raised from Broadband Network Subscriber's Fees receipts and funds from any source derived from the activities of the Town's Municipal Light Plant Broadband Board**; or act in relation thereto.

ARTICLE 36.

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, appropriate from available funds, transfer, borrow, or any combination thereof; **a certain amount for deposit into the Stabilization Fund**; or act in relation thereto.

ARTICLE 37.

To see if the Town will vote for a **Local Option regarding Personal Property Tax Exemption(s) of any Personal Property Accounts/Values/Assessments that are under \$5,000.00 will be exempt from Personal Property Tax Bills** to the Town of Petersham effective in Fiscal Year 2024; or act in relation thereto.

ARTICLE 38.

To see if the Town will vote **to approve the establishment of a Capital Stabilization Fund according to Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 71, Section 16 G1/2, for the Ralph C. Mahar Regional School District**; the funding source for this Capital Stabilization Fund shall only be from the Mahar Regional School District Certified Excess & Deficiency Fund; or act in relation thereto.

ARTICLE 39.

To see if the Town will vote **to approve the establishment of a Special Education Stabilization Fund according to Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 218, Section 24 of the Acts of 2016 for the Ralph C. Mahar Regional School District**; the funding source for this Special Education Stabilization Fund shall only be from the Mahar Regional School District Medicaid Fund; or act in relation thereto.

ARTICLE 40.

CITIZEN'S PETITION ARTICLE

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, appropriate from available funds, take from the Stabilization Fund, borrow, or any combination thereof, the sum of **\$2,000.00** to support the Petersham Friday Market and its 2023 program of up to 20 music performances — and to provide no-cost fresh produce to families in need — to be held on the town common, or act in relation thereto.

ARTICLE 41.

CITIZEN'S PETITION ARTICLE

To see if the Town will vote to amend Article II Town Meetings Section D to read as follows:

**TOWN OFFICERS AND APPOINTEES AND THE
ELECTION OR APPOINTMENT OF SAME**

Elected Officers – Moderator for a term of three years; Town Clerk for a term of three years; Selectboard to consist of five members, for a term of three years each, who shall hold no other Town office except as provided for by the By-laws of the Town of Petersham; Town Treasurer for a term of three years; Tax Collector for a term of three years; Board of Assessors to consist of three members, one to be elected each year for a term of three years; Board of Health to consist of three members, one to be elected each year for a term of three years; School Committee to consist of three members, one to be elected each year for a term of three years; one member to the Mahar Regional School Committee for a term of three years; Trustees of the Public Library to consist of three members, one to be elected each year for a term of three years; three Constables to be elected for a term of three years; Planning Board to consist of five members, each elected for a term of three years and to vote 1) that this amendment shall be implemented starting with the 2023 annual town meeting for the election of Town officers; 2) that all subsequent terms of Planning Board members be for three years, Or act in relation thereto.

ARTICLE 42.

CITIZEN'S PETITION ARTICLE

To see if the Town will vote to approve nighttime lighting of the flag of the United States on the Town Common by July 4th, 2023; and raise and appropriate, appropriate from available funds and/or accept gifts towards the lighting equipment, or act in relation thereto.

~ END OF WARRANT ~

...

And you are directed to serve this Warrant, by posting up attested copies thereof at the Petersham Town Offices, Petersham Post Office, and Petersham Package Store, in said Town, seven (7) days at least before the time of holding said meeting. Hereof fail not and make due return of this Warrant, with your doings thereon, to the Town Clerk, at the time and place of meeting, as aforesaid.

Given under our hands this 19th day of May, 2023.

[Signature]

Annette Ermini

[Signature]

} Selectboard of Petersham, Massachusetts

Given under my hands this 19th day of May, 2023.

A true copy. Attest: [Signature]

} Constable of Petersham, Massachusetts

Worcester, SS

Pursuant to the within Warrant, I have notified the inhabitants of the Town of Petersham, Massachusetts by posting up attested copies at the Petersham Town Offices, Petersham Post Office and Petersham Package Store, seven (7) days before the date of the meeting, as within directed.

[Signature]

} Constable of Petersham, Massachusetts