



Town of Ashland
M A S S A C H U S E T T S

Smart. Safe. Sustainable.

A TRUE COPY.
ATTEST
CONSTABLE

**WARRANT ARTICLES, INFORMATION AND
RECOMMENDATIONS
OF THE
FINANCE COMMITTEE
FOR THE
DECEMBER 1, 2021
SPECIAL TOWN MEETING
ASHLAND HIGH SCHOOL**

**SPECIAL TOWN MEETING WARRANT
DECEMBER 1, 2021
7:00 PM
ASHLAND HIGH SCHOOL**

**Article 1: Free Cash Transfer
Sponsor: Town Manager/Finance Director**

To see if the Town will vote to transfer from Free Cash, a sum of money to be placed in the Stabilization Fund, OPEB Trust Fund, Special Education Special Purpose Stabilization Account, and/or Capital Account, or pass any vote or take any action relative thereto.

**Article 2: Reauthorization of Public Safety Building Bonds
Sponsor: Select Board**

To see if the Town will vote to expand the authorized purpose of the borrowing approved by Article 9 of the November, 28 2018 town meeting to include authorizing expenditure of any remaining funds on the costs of site preparation, construction, equipping and furnishing a new Public Safety building located at 12-16 Union Street, including the payment of all incidental and related costs of the public safety facility located at 12 Union Street, Ashland, or pass any vote or take any action relative thereto.

**Article 3: Property Tax Exemptions
Sponsor: Select Board**

To see if the Town will vote to adjust (the exemption amount and eligibility factors) for the property tax exemption for senior citizens under MGL Chapter 59, Section 5 Clause 41C½, to be effective for exemptions granted for any fiscal year beginning July 1, 2021, or pass any vote or take any action relative thereto.

**Article 4: Extend End Date of Riverwalk Trail Enhancement, Mill Pond Park Beautification and Stone Bungalow Preservation Projects
Sponsor: Community Preservation Committee**

To see if the Town will vote to extend the time by which funds need to be spent on the following Community Preservation Committee approved projects:

- a. Riverwalk Trail Enhancement Project, which was authorized under Article 11 at the 2017 Annual Town Meeting to complete the design and construction of the Sudbury

River Trail Riverwalk, until December 31, 2023, at which time any unexpended funds will be returned to their funding sources, and

- b. Mill Pond Park Beautification Project, which was authorized under Article 9 at the 2019 Special Town Meeting to beautify Mill Pond Park and provide funding to increase accessibility to the Riverwalk, said funds to be available until December 31, 2023, at which time any unexpended funds will be returned to their funding sources, and
- c. Town Forest Restoration Project Phase II, which was authorized under Article 10 at the 2019 Special Town Meeting to preserve the remains of the Stone Bungalow, said funds to be available until December 31, 2023, at which time any unexpended funds will be returned to their funding sources.

or pass any vote or take any other action thereon.

Article 5: Authorize Funding for Marathon Park Enhancements
Sponsor: Community Preservation Committee

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate \$97,500 in Community Preservation Act to fund improvements at 333 Pleasant Street to include removal of invasive species, add plantings, landscaping, hardscaping, installation and relocation of new and existing signage, power washing, complete and add porous pavers to existing walkways, add additional plaques and benches, other related tasks for the parcel known as Marathon Park from the following accounts; \$48,750 the Open Space Account, and \$48,750 from the Historical Account, with the following stipulations that the town receive any and all permits prior to the disbursement of any funds said funds to be available until December 31, 2023 at which time any unexpended funds will be returned to their funding sources, or pass any vote or take any other action relative thereto.

Article 6: MWRA Bond for I and I work
Sponsor: Select Board

To see if the Town will appropriate a sum of money to make infiltration and inflow improvements to the Town's sewer system, including improvements for infiltration and inflow reduction purposes that are eligible for loans or other financial assistance through the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority's I/I Local Financial Assistance Program - Phase 11 Funding Allocation, said funds to be expended under the direction of the Department of Public Works; to determine whether such amounts should be raised by taxation, borrowing, transfer from available funds or otherwise, and to authorize the Select Board to apply for and accept, any grants that may be available to pay costs of such projects; or pass any vote or take any other action relative thereto.

Article 7: Road Acceptance: High Street Extension and Weaver Road
Sponsor: Select Board

To see if the Town will vote to accept as a public way under the provisions of MGL Chapter 82, as amended, High Street Extension as laid out by the Select Board and shown on plans entitled, "Plan of Acceptance High Street Ext, Weaver Road Ashland MA" drawn by GLM Engineering Consultant, Inc, dated June 29, 2021, which plan is on file in the Office of the Town Clerk, and to accept such easements as are shown on said plans, or pass any vote or take any action relative thereto

Article 8: Resolution to call for Building Decarbonization in the Commonwealth
Sponsor: Sustainability Committee

To see if the Town will adopt the following Resolution, calling for Swift, Just Building Decarbonization in the Commonwealth

WHEREAS, The Commonwealth of Massachusetts has a legally binding statewide requirement of an 85% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions from 1990 levels by 2050;

WHEREAS, Ashland has committed to a goal of net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2040, and has tasked the Sustainability Committee to design a plan for implementing this goal;

WHEREAS, in 2018 the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change forcefully stated that in order to prevent catastrophic global warming we need to reduce carbon emissions to ~45% of 2010 levels by 2030 and reach net zero by approximately 2050;

WHEREAS, addressing climate change requires a just transition from fossil fuels to a decarbonized economy that is sustainable and equitable;

WHEREAS, low-income communities and communities of color worldwide are already disproportionately impacted by climate change, and will continue to bear an excess burden as temperatures increase, oceans rise, and disasters worsen;

WHEREAS, building emissions represent over 50% of greenhouse gas emissions in the Commonwealth and therefore achieving the Commonwealth's mandatory greenhouse gas emissions targets will require building decarbonization;

WHEREAS, natural gas is a fossil fuel that generates indoor and outdoor air pollution, leaks explosive methane from aging infrastructure, and puts the health and safety of the Commonwealth's current and future citizens at risk;

WHEREAS, gas stoves produce harmful indoor emissions including nitrogen dioxide (NO₂), carbon monoxide (CO), and formaldehyde (HCHO), each of which can cause various respiratory

and other health ailments, and cooking with gas has been linked to asthma and other adverse health effects, with children and low-income households particularly affected;

WHEREAS, all-electric technology and net-zero carbon building capability exists today, is feasible, and is cost-effective;

WHEREAS, the availability of renewable energy is growing and expected to continue to grow;

WHEREAS, under current regulations, towns and cities in Massachusetts are prohibited by law from adopting stringent building codes and regulations that will allow us to eliminate fossil fuels from our buildings and meet our legally binding emissions targets.

NOW BE IT RESOLVED, we call for the Massachusetts State Legislature, Department of Public Utilities, and Board of Building Regulations and Standards to commit to swift, just building decarbonization in the Commonwealth by acting at the state-level and allowing rapid municipal action;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, we call upon the Massachusetts State Legislature to pass laws such as H.2167/S.1333 which would allow municipalities the choice to prohibit fossil fuel infrastructure in new construction and phase out fossil fuel infrastructure in existing buildings;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, we call upon the Massachusetts State Legislature to change the Gas Code and G.L. c. 142 §13 in order to allow municipalities the autonomy to deny gas permits;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, we call upon the Department of Public Utilities to urgently and fully comply with the Massachusetts Office of the Attorney General's June 2020 petition: "Requesting an Investigation, pursuant to the Department of Public Utilities' authority under G.L. c. 164, §§ 76, 105A into the impact on the continuing business operations of local gas distribution companies as the Commonwealth achieves its target 2050 climate goals" (D.P.U. docket #20-80);

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, we call upon the Massachusetts State Legislature to align the mission of the Board of Building Regulations and Standards with achieving the Commonwealth's decarbonization goals;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, Ashland commits to centering the need for a just transition in our climate efforts and to working with environmental justice, economic justice, and racial justice organizations, and we call upon the Massachusetts State Legislature, Department of Public Utilities, and Board of Building Regulations and Standards to do the same;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Massachusetts State Legislature and Department of Public Utilities should ensure elective electrification and new construction codes do not increase rates or costs for medium and low-income residents;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Massachusetts State Legislature and Department of Public Utilities must take an active role in guaranteeing that the benefits of electrification can be

realized by low-income households and environmental justice communities through funding assistance and deliberate program design;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, a just transition demands the equitable creation and distribution of high-quality jobs as the effort to decarbonize our buildings and restore a safe climate is launched;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town Clerk shall cause a copy of this resolution to be sent to State Representative Lewis, to Senator Spilka, and to Governor Charles Baker.

Or to take any other action in relation thereto.

WARRANT - TOWN OF ASHLAND
DECEMBER 1, 2021 SPECIAL TOWN MEETING

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

MIDDLESEX, SS:

TO: a Constable of the Town of Ashland, in said county:


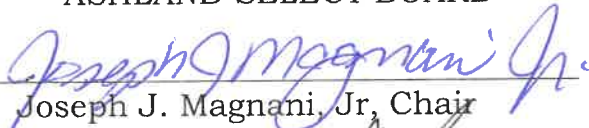
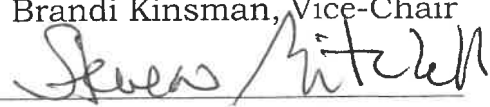


GREETINGS:

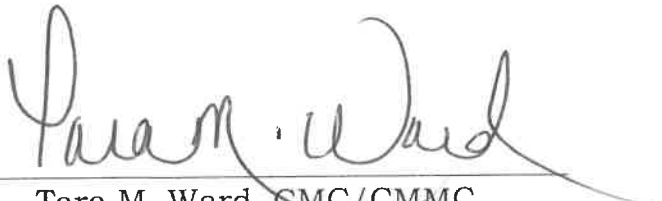
In the name of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, you are hereby required to notify the legal voters of the Town of Ashland to meet at the Ashland High School, 65 East Union Street in said Town, on WEDNESDAY, the First day of December, in the year Two Thousand and Twenty-One at 7:00 P M to act upon the following Articles of the Town Warrant.

Hereof fail not and make due return of this warrant by your doing thereon to the Town Clerk, at or before the time of the meeting aforesaid.

Given under our hands, at Ashland, on the 3rd day of November in the year Two Thousand and Twenty-One.

ASHLAND SELECT BOARD

 _____ Brandi Kinsman, Vice-Chair	 _____ Joseph J. Magnani, Jr, Chair
 _____ Steven Mitchell	 _____ Yolanda Greaves
	 _____ Robert K. Scherer, Clerk

ATTEST: 

Tara M. Ward, SMC/CMMC
Ashland Town Clerk

POSTING CERTIFICATION

CONSTABLE'S RETURN OF SERVICE

I, the undersigned, a Constable in and for the Town of Ashland, do hereby certify that I have posted attested copies of the within warrant at least fourteen days before the time of said Special Town Meeting at the following locations:

Town Hall, 101 Main Street, Ashland, MA (Precinct 1)
Ashland Police Station, 137 Main Street, Ashland, MA (Precinct 1)
Ashland Public Library, 66 Front Street, Ashland, MA (Precinct 1)

Marathon Mobil, 103 West Union Street, Ashland, MA (Precinct 2)

Ashland Convenience Store/Pizza Palace, 72 Union Street, Ashland, MA.
(Precinct 3)

Shaw's Supermarket, 307 Pond Street, Ashland, MA (Precinct 4)

Ashland Community Center, 162 West Union Street, Ashland, MA
(Precinct 5)



Constable's Signature

11/15/2021

Date of Posting

Barry Sims

Constable's Name Printed

ATTEST:


Tara M. Ward, CMC/CMMC, Ashland Town Clerk