

Templeton Advisory Committee

Recommendations to the Fall Special Town Meeting

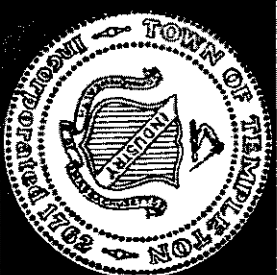
November 3, 2021, at 6:00 PM

Narragansett Regional Middle School Auditorium



Templeton Advisory Committee

Pre-Town Meeting: October 21, 2021 @ 6:30 PM



Attendance for the Pre-Town Meeting –

- **PRESENT** – Mr. M. Rivard (Chair); Mr. W. Spring (Vice-Chair); Ms. B. Bartolomeo (Clerk); Mr. J. Caplis (6:38 PM); Mr. N. Francis; Ms. E. Honsa.
- **ABSENT** – None.

- **GUESTS** – Mr. A. Lamontagne (Town Administrator); Mr. J. Graves (Town Administrative Intern); Ms. K. Pontbriand (Town Accountant); Mr. B. Szocik (Department of Public Works), Mr. G. Andrews (Conservation Committee); Mr. R. Curtis (Emergency Management); Mr. J. Bennett (Select Board), and other members of the public.

The Advisory Committee meeting was called to order by the Chairperson Mr. Rivard at 6:30 PM.

- **A motion to open the Pre-Town Meeting** for the November 3, 2021, Fall Special Town Meeting was made by Mr. Spring, seconded by Ms. Bartolomeo, and carried by a vote of 5-0-0 at 6:32 PM.
- **Fifteen (15) Articles on the Fall Special Town Meeting Warrant** were debated, and recommendations agreed upon and voted upon by motion, as presented in the pages that follow in this document.
- **A motion to close the Pre-Town Meeting** for the November 3, 2021, Fall Special Town Meeting was made by Mr. Spring, seconded by Ms. Bartolomeo, and carried by a vote of 6-0-0 at 8:11 PM.
- **A motion to adjourn the Advisory Committee** until Thursday October 28, 2021, at 6:30 PM for a regular business meeting was made by Mr. Spring, seconded by Ms. Bartolomeo, and carried by a vote of 6-0-0 at 8:11 PM.

This Recommendation Document was reviewed and finalized at the October 28, 2021, Advisory Committee regular business meeting, on a motion by Mr. Spring, seconded by Ms. Bartolomeo and carried by a vote of 6-0-0 at 7:07 PM.

Article 1

FY 2022 Operating Budget Amendments

The Committee provides the following guidance on this article:

The Committee is in favor of this article being adopted by Town Meeting.

The Committee recommends to the town that in the future they please separate all items being asked for funding. EX: Building & Grounds, separate increase in heating costs and Cemetery Commission software subscription costs.

On a motion to recommend a YES vote on the Article to the Fall Special Town Meeting:

YES	6
NO	0
ABSTAIN	0
ABSENT	0

Article 2 FY 2022 Capital Budget Amendment

The Committee provides the following guidance on this article:

The Committee is in favor of this article being adopted at Town Meeting.

The Committee applauds the Town Administrator for admitting his mistake and taking the proper actions to correct it.

On a motion to recommend a		
YES vote on		
the Article to		
the Fall Special		
Town Meeting:		
YES		6
NO		0
ABSTAIN		0
ABSENT		0

Article 3

Amending the Bylaws

Re: Advisory Committee

The Committee provides the following guidance on this article:

The Committee is in favor of this article being adopted at Town Meeting.

This Article eliminates redundancy in the Town Bylaws – Timing for the Advisory Committee's report to Town Meeting was in two places, here and in Section 9.4. The guidance will now only be in Section 9.4.

On a motion to recommend a YES vote on the Article to the Fall Special Town Meeting:			
YES		6	
NO		0	
ABSTAIN		0	
ABSENT		0	

Article 4

Amending the Bylaws

Re: Advisory Committee

The Committee provides the following guidance on this article:

On a motion to recommend a
YES vote on the article to the
Fall Special Town Meeting:

YES	NO	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
5	1	0	0

The Advisory Committee needs to be independent of Town oversight in order to function properly as an oversight committee. This Article changes the Moderator's role with regards to appointments for vacancies in the Advisory Committee and makes the Committee a more independent body, while leaving the ability for the Moderator to appoint in case of lack of quorum as a safety net. This does not change the Moderator's role after Town Meeting, as he must still appoint to Advisory Committee within 30 days. Advisory Committee recruits its own members generally; the Moderator historically does not. Massachusetts General Law does not grant the Moderator any powers OTHER THAN to run the Town Meetings. This Article aligns us with many of our comparison communities, and with our historical bylaw.

This Article also changes the timeframe for the Advisory Committee to report to Town Meeting from 5 days to 2 for Annual Town Meeting, and from 4 days to 2 for Special Town Meeting. As currently written, it is extremely difficult for the Advisory Committee to make the timelines, and it failed to do so once in Fiscal Year 2021 (for Fall Town Meeting 2020). These adjusted timelines will make it more realistic for the Committee to perform its duties to the Town, and to provide a complete Recommendation/Recommendation.

FROM THE MEMBER VOTING "NO" -

I believe there should be checks and balances in the bylaws, and this Article would remove one of those checks & balances by minimizing the role of the Moderator in appointing persons to the Advisory Committee. I am opposed to the changes to Section 9.3, but NOT opposed to the changes to Section 9.4.

COMMENTS

AGAINST

Article 5

Authorize Special Legislation

Re: Parks and Recreation Commission

The Committee provides the following guidance on this article:

The Committee is in favor of this Article being adopted by the Town Meeting.

This Special Legislation would authorize the creation of a Parks & Recreation Commission and allow the Town to appoint the 7-person board rather than have it be an elected board. The current Recreation Commission is an appointed board, this Special Legislation would align the new Parks & Recreation Commission with our current Recreation Commission's design.

On a motion to
recommend a
YES vote on
the Article to
the Fall Special
Town Meeting:

YES	6
NO	0
ABSTAIN	0
ABSENT	0

Article 6 Parks and Recreation Commission

The Committee provides the following guidance on this article:

The Committee is in favor of this Article being adopted by the Town Meeting.

This Article would, pending the passage & signing of the Special Legislation in Article 5, create the establishment by-laws for the Parks and Recreation Commission. It also updates the language of the Recreation Commission's existing by-laws.

On a motion to
recommend a
YES vote on
the Article to
the Fall Special
Town Meeting.

YES	6
NO	0
ABSTAIN	0
ABSENT	0

Article 7

Authorize Special Legislation

Re: Revolving Fund for Problem Properties

The Committee provides the following guidance on this article:

The Committee is in favor of this Article being adopted by the Town Meeting.

This Article, if passed by the State Legislature, would establish a revolving fund for the Town to act on Town-owned blighted properties, to be replenished by whatever grants, state reimbursements, and property sales the Town accrues as a result of blighted property clean-up. The next Article would put seed money into the revolving account for the Town to begin with. This Legislation is the same as passed for the Town of Athol.

On a motion to recommend a YES vote on the Article to the Fall Special Town Meeting:		
YES	6	
NO	0	
ABSTAIN	0	
ABSENT	0	

Article 8

Deposit to Demolition Revolving Fund

The Committee provides the following guidance on this article:

The Committee is in favor of this Article being adopted by the Town Meeting.

This Article, pending passage & signing of the Special Legislation in Article 7, would deposit the seed money into the Demolition Revolving Fund. It also makes us eligible for other grants regarding blighted properties and their remediation.

On a motion to recommend a YES vote on the Article to the Fall Special Town Meeting:			
YES		5	
NO		0	
ABSTAIN		0	
ABSENT		1	

Article 9

Dissolve Senior Center Oversight Committee

The Committee provides the following guidance on this article:

The Committee is in favor of this Article being adopted by the Town Meeting.

The Senior Center Oversight Committee has completed its obligations and is therefore no longer needed and should be dissolved. The Select Board is supervising remaining repairs to the Senior Center (roof, kitchen). The Council on Aging has been taking on a more active role in the Senior Center's oversight.

On a motion to recommend a YES vote on the Article to the Fall Special Town Meeting:

YES	5
NO	0
ABSTAIN	0
ABSENT	1

Article 10

Dissolve TES Building Committee

The Committee provides the following guidance on this article:

The Committee is in favor of this Article being adopted by the Town Meeting.

All submittals have been made to close out the process for TES, we are waiting approval from the State that the Massachusetts School Building Authority has signed off on the process. The TES Building Committee would be dissolved upon the receipt of notification from the MSBA.

On a motion to recommend a YES vote on the Article to the Fall Special Town Meeting:

YES	6
NO	0
ABSTAIN	0
ABSENT	0

Article 11

Special Articles

Re: General Fund

The Committee provides the following guidance on this article:

➤ *One (1) Committee member recused himself from deliberation on this Article.*

The Committee is in favor of this Article being adopted by the Town Meeting.

Regarding Tax Title Work, the Town is taking a more active role in going after property owner's delinquent on their taxes and needs this money to do the work.

Regarding Emergency Management/CERT, this money is provided by the CARES Act and will be going to purchasing emergency equipment and supplies needed by the town. This money IS NOT going to pay volunteers on the Emergency Management or CERT teams. Generally, Emergency Management is funded solely by grants, and this is a unique opportunity for Emergency Management to have additional funding to benefit the Town.

Regarding Baldwinville School Caretaking, this is to maintain the building until the process of converting it into apartments can begin (building preservation and security, cleaning vandalism, etc.).

**On a motion to
recommend a
YES vote on
the Article to
the Fall Special
Town Meeting:**

YES	5
NO	0
ABSTAIN	0
ABSENT	0

Article 12

Capital Budget

Re: General Fund

The Committee provides the following guidance on this article:

The Committee is in favor of this Article being adopted by the Town Meeting.

Regarding River's Edge, the Conservation Commission wants to get this project completed prior to the completion of the Baldwinville School Apartment Conversion AND for the greater benefit of the Town. These monies along with money already on the books will allow for successful completion.

Regarding the 2021 CAT Loader, this is to replace a similar machine that has suffered catastrophic failure (transmission), AFTER the FY 2022 Capital budget was finalized. The failed machine will be traded in as part of the new CAT loader's purchase, adding \$20,000 to this for a total cost of \$203,500. This is needed for the continued successful operation of the Town DPW and the proper maintenance of the Town.

On a motion to
recommend a
YES vote on
the Article to
the Fall Special
Town Meeting:

YES	6
NO	0
ABSTAIN	0
ABSENT	0

Article 13

Appointment of Tree Warden

The Committee provides the following guidance on this article:

The Committee is in favor of this Article being adopted by the Town Meeting.

This officially adopts and makes us compliant with Massachusetts General Law to make the position of Tree Warden appointable to a 3-year term by the Select Board.

On a motion to recommend a YES vote on the Article to the Fall Special Town Meeting:			
YES		6	
NO		0	
ABSTAIN		0	
ABSENT		0	

Article 14

Deposits to General Fund Stabilization & OPEB Accounts

The Committee provides the following guidance on this article:

The Committee is in favor of this Article being adopted by the Town Meeting.

These are deposits to our emergency, "rainy day," funds. The Advisory Committee commends the Town on their fiscal responsibility, allowing us to deposit these amounts to OPEX, CAPEX, and OPEB to keep the Town prepared for the future.

**On a motion to
recommend a
YES vote on
the Article to
the Fall Special
Town Meeting:**

YES	6
NO	0
ABSTAIN	0
ABSENT	0

Article 15

Rescission of Authorized but Unissued Debt

The Committee provides the following guidance on this article:

The Committee is in favor of this Article being adopted by the Town Meeting.

This Article is to close out a debt account that the Town had opened for storm drain repair that it did not fully need. By closing out this debt account, the Town's debt ratio will be lowered, it will improve the Town's position in the eyes of banks and creditors and may help to improve the Town's bond rating.

On a motion to recommend a YES vote on the Article to the Fall Special Town Meeting:			
YES		6	
NO		0	
ABSTAIN		0	
ABSENT		0	

