

Warrant Article Petition Policy for Independent Organizations

Adopted by the Select Board on February 17, 2009

Purpose

The purpose of this Policy is to establish reasonable rules of procedure for Independent Organizations / Entities to add an Article to the Annual Town Meeting Warrant. This Policy shall govern the Select Board's / Town's practice and procedure except as otherwise provided by State Statute.

Policy

All non-Town organizations / entities requesting placement of an Article (for funding or otherwise) on the Annual Town Meeting Warrant shall abide by the following procedures:

- a. The first year a non-Town entity requests placement of an Article, said entity must petition the Town's people and collect enough signatures to equal 10% of the last gubernatorial vote.
- b. Completed petition must be submitted to and certified by the Town Clerk. Town Clerk will provide a full copy of any certified petitions to the Select Board.
- c. If procedures a and b above are satisfied, the Select Board shall place said entity's requested Article on the next applicable Town Warrant.
- d. Entity is requested to appear before the Select Board for an informational exchange, and such a meeting is required before the Select Board gives a recommendation of support. If the request is financial in nature or includes a financial element, said entity is requested to appear before the Budget Committee during the upcoming budget process and such a meeting is required before the Select Board gives a recommendation of support.
- e. In order for the Article to retain any recommendation of support that the Select Board may have included with the Article, a legal representative from the entity (owner, officer, board member, etc.) must be present before the vote is called. Failure to appear at Town Meeting will cause the Select Board to recommend against the Article.
- f. If entity's petitioned Article is for a funding request and such is approved by the Town Meeting vote, the entity does *not* have to perform items a and b (e.g. petitioning process) above in subsequent years when the same entity is seeking Article placement on the Town Warrant. This shall be so unless:
 1. The wording of the subsequent Article changes from the original petitioning Article;
 2. Requested funding increases by a more than 5% from the original petitioned Article.
 3. The entity changes name or purpose (legally or otherwise).
- g. If Town Meeting votes down an entity's Article in any year, and the entity desires to have its Article reconsidered, then the above procedure would start over with item "a" above.

Exemptions

The Select Board, at their discretion, could vote annually to waive any part of this policy and procedure for any entity provided such entity is solely based in Readfield and where said entity's funds are entirely and strictly used in Readfield.

Grandfather Clause

No entity shall be grandfathered into this policy.

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Henry Clauson, Chair

John Perry, Vice Chair

Kathryn Woodsum

Matthew Nazar

Ronald Neilson

Attested by Robin L. Lint, Town Clerk

Date