



# TOWN OF ROCKPORT

# TOWN MEETING VOTERS BOOKLET

FALL TOWN MEETING SEPTEMBER 26, 2020

*This booklet is an aid to Town Meeting voters and incorporates the Warrants, Motions and other handouts.*

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# TOWN MEETING VOTERS BOOKLET

## Town Moderator

Rockport, Massachusetts 01966

September 26, 2020

Dear citizens:

As you may recall, when “spring” town meeting concluded on the morning of August 8th, I made the comment that I was never more proud to be a Rockporter than I was that day. By that I meant that I was so grateful that everybody in the community rose to the challenge of conducting a meeting during this pandemic. Many people spent numerous hours to prepare for a smooth meeting, DPW workers, IT staff, police officers, Town Hall and school employees, Board of Health and Selectmen representatives, the communications company we hired and many others worked tirelessly to come up with solutions “outside the box “ to create a safe and effective meeting.

The voters who attended also conducted themselves in an exemplary fashion. Everybody was courteous, succinct and contributed focused, relevant comments to enhance our discussions. The attendees were patient as we learned how to deal with our “vehicle attendees.”

We find ourselves operating under the same circumstances in September, and I have high expectations. There are those who think we are too conservative in our approach and believe we should conduct our meetings as we normally would. Others think it is unsafe for us to meet at all. To the extent people have criticized how we are conducting these pandemic meetings, I will accept all of that criticism as it is my reluctance to conduct “business as usual” that has led to these hybrid meetings with a truncated warrant. But I believe in my heart that we are doing the right thing and keeping folks as safe as possible while transacting the business we need to transact.

Monday is Yom Kippur, the most solemn day in the Jewish tradition. It is a time to reflect back on the previous year but also a time to look ahead to the following year. It is my hope and belief that our future will be bright and that we will soon be able to have our “normal” meetings. At the conclusion of a Passover Seder, which occurs around the time of the spring town meeting, it is traditional to end with the words “next year in Jerusalem.” I say to you, “next year in the gymnasium.”

With gratitude,

Bob

Robert L. Visnick, Esq.

# TOWN MEETING VOTERS BOOKLET

## TOWN OF ROCKPORT

### WARRANT FOR

### FALL TOWN MEETING

Saturday, September 26, 2020

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

To: One of the Constables of the Town of Rockport, Massachusetts in said County of Essex in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

**GREETINGS:** In the name of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, you are hereby directed to notify and warn the inhabitants of said Town qualified to vote in Town affairs to meet and assemble at the Rockport High School at 24 Jerden's Lane in said Rockport on Saturday, the twenty-sixth day of September, 2020 A.D., at 8:00 o'clock in the morning, then and there to act on the following articles, to wit:

ARTICLE A. To see if the Town will raise and appropriate, or appropriate and transfer, a sum of money to pay unpaid bills of previous fiscal years; or act on anything relative thereto. *(Board of Selectmen) (Requires 9/10 vote)*

ARTICLE B. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, or appropriate and transfer, a sum or sums of money to add to the appropriations made under Articles 5, 5A, 5B, 5C, 6, 6A and/or 6B of the August 8, 2020 Annual Town Meeting or to reduce appropriations made thereunder; or act on anything relative thereto. *(Board of Selectmen) (Requires majority vote)*

ARTICLE C. To see if the Town will hear and receive the annual report and recommendations of the Community Preservation Committee pursuant to Section 5 of Chapter 44B of the General Laws and Chapter 2, Section 5(d)(ii) of the Code of By-laws; or act on anything relative thereto. *(Community Preservation Committee) (Requires majority vote)*

ARTICLE D. To see if the Town will vote, pursuant to Section 6 of Chapter 44B of the General Laws, to set aside in the Community Preservation Fund sums of money from Community Preservation Fund FY2021 estimated annual revenues for later spending for the respective purposes indicated:

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*First*, a sum of money to be deposited in the Community Housing Reserve Account;

*Second*, a sum of money to be deposited in the Open Space/Recreation Reserve Account;

*Third*, a sum of money to be deposited in the Historic Preservation Reserve Account;

or act on anything relative thereto. *(Community Preservation Committee)*  
*(Requires majority vote)*

## ARTICLE E.

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate and transfer from the Community Preservation Fund or by borrowing the following amounts for the respective purposes indicated:

*First*, \$60,000 to be expended under the oversight of the Department of Public Works, working with the Harbormasters and the Community Preservation Committee, for the creation, construction and installation of a new float system in and for the **rehabilitation** of the South Harbor ;

*Second*, \$100,000 as a grant to the YMCA of Gloucester, a nonprofit corporation duly organized under the law of Massachusetts, to be expended under the oversight of the Board of Selectmen working with the Community Preservation Committee, for the creation, construction, and installation of a Splash Park at the YMCA facility, at and for the **rehabilitation and restoration** of the old Fuller School site in Gloucester;

*Third*, \$95,000 to be expended under the direction of the DPW Commissioners, working with the Beautification Committee and the Community Preservation Committee, for the restoration and rehabilitation of Harvey Park and Barletta Park;

*Fourth*, \$100,000 to be placed in the Conservation Fund, to be administered by the Rockport Conservation Commission, to be used for purposes consistent with the Community Preservation Act;

*Fifth*, \$30,000 to be expended under the direction of the Thacher & Straitsmouth Islands Town Committee, working with the Community Preservation Committee, for the restoration, rehabilitation and historic preservation of the Thacher Island Assistant Keeper's House;

*Sixth*, \$48,500 as a grant to the Rockport Art Association, a nonprofit corporation duly organized under the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, to be expended under the oversight of the Board of Selectmen working with the Community Preservation Committee, for the restoration, rehabilitation and historic preservation of the Old Tavern building;

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*Seventh*, \$27,000 to be expended under the direction of the DPW Commissioners, working with the Cultural District and the Community Preservation Committee, for the restoration, rehabilitation and preservation of the historic Old Firehouse Trust building;

*Eighth*, \$180,000 as a grant to the Rockport Housing Authority, a nonprofit corporation duly organized under the laws of Massachusetts, to be expended under the oversight of the Board of Selectmen working with the Community Preservation Committee, for the creation, construction and installation of new roofs at and for the **rehabilitation and restoration** of the Kitefield Road public housing facility;

*Ninth*, \$75,000 as a grant to Action, Inc., a nonprofit corporation duly organized under the laws of Massachusetts, for its Rental/Mortgage Assistance Program for the creation of community housing for Rockport residents, under the supervision of the Board of Selectmen;

or act on anything relative thereto. *(Community Preservation Committee)*  
*(Requires majority vote)*

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And you are directed to serve this Warrant by posting attested copies of the same at each of the Post Offices, the Town Bulletin Board and in other public places in each village of the Town, fourteen days at least before the day of the holding of said FALL TOWN MEETING.

Hereof fail not and make due return of this Warrant, with your doings thereon to the Town Clerk, three days at least before Saturday, September 26, 2020.

Given under our hands and seal of the Town this 10<sup>th</sup> day of September 2020 A.D.

## BOARD OF SELECTMEN TOWN OF ROCKPORT

*Ruth C. George, Chair*

*Donald J. Campbell, Jr., Vice Chair*

*Sarah J. Wilkinson, Member*

*Paul F. Murphy, Member*

*Ross C. Brackett, Member*

# TOWN MEETING VOTERS BOOKLET

## FTM ARTICLES, MOTIONS, SUMMARIES & RECOMMENDATIONS

### ARTICLE A

**To see if the Town will raise and appropriate, or appropriate and transfer, a sum of money to pay unpaid bills of previous fiscal years; or act on anything relative thereto.** *(Board of Selectmen) (Requires 9/10 vote)*

### MOTION

I move that the Town appropriate and transfer the sums set forth in the *Fall Town Meeting Voters Booklet* on page 6, all for the purpose of paying unpaid bills and adjustments from the previous fiscal year. *(9/10 vote)*

<b>Amount</b>	<b>From</b>	<b>Vendor</b>
\$267.48	Ambulance Department – Medical Supplies	Public Safety Center

### SUMMARY EXPLANATION

This article requests Town Meeting to approve paying bills that were received after the close of the fiscal year.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

The Board of Selectmen and Finance Committee recommends approval.

### ARTICLE B

**To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, or appropriate and transfer, a sum or sums of money to add to the appropriations made under Articles 5, 5A, 5B, 5C, 6, 6A and/or 6B of the August 8, 2020 Annual Town Meeting or to reduce appropriations made thereunder; or act on anything relative thereto.** *(Board of Selectmen) (Requires majority vote)*

### MOTION

I move that the Town amend the votes taken under Articles 5, 5A, 5B, 5C, 6, 6A and/or 6B of the August 8, 2020 Annual Town Meeting by transferring the sums set forth in the *Fall Town Meeting Voters Booklet* for Article B Motion on page 6 and in the amounts and for the purposes specified therein. *(majority vote)*

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Amount	From	To
\$2,000.00	Board of Health Public Health Nurse Wages	Board of Health Purchase of Services

*Article B Transfers Exhibit*

## SUMMARY EXPLANATION

This is in part a simple administrative action that requests Town Meeting to approve the transfer of money between Town departments that will balance the operating budget by moving funds from accounts that don't need them to accounts that do. In addition, there are some accounts in the budget that require supplementation and transfers from other funds outside of Article 5.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

The Board of Selectmen and Finance Committee recommends approval.

## ARTICLE C

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**To see if the Town will hear and receive the annual report and recommendations of the Community Preservation Committee pursuant to Section 5 of Chapter 44B of the General Laws and Chapter 2, Section 5(d)(ii) of the Code of By-Laws; or act on anything relative thereto.** *(Community Preservation Committee) (Requires majority vote)*

## MOTION

I move that the Town hear and receive the report of the Community Preservation Committee.  
*(majority vote)*

## SUMMARY EXPLANATION

This is a standard article that allows the Community Preservation Committee (CPC) to make its recommendations to Town Meeting for the use of monies from the Community Preservation Fund.

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## RECOMMENDATIONS

The Board of Selectmen recommend approval.

## ARTICLE D

**To see if the Town will vote, pursuant to Section 6 of Chapter 44B of the General Laws, to set aside in the Community Preservation Fund sums of money from Community Preservation Fund FY2021 estimated annual revenues for later spending for the respective purposes indicated:**

***First, a sum of money to be deposited in the Community Housing Reserve Account;***

***Second, a sum of money to be deposited in the Open Space/Recreation Reserve Account;***

***Third, a sum of money to be deposited in the Historic Preservation Reserve Account;***

**or act on anything relative thereto.** *(Community Preservation Committee) (Requires majority vote)*

## MOTION

**First Motion:** I move that \$65,000 be transferred from FY20 Estimated Annual Revenues of the Community Preservation Fund to the Community Preservation Fund Community Housing Reserve Account. *(majority vote)*

**Second Motion:** I move that \$65,000 be transferred from FY20 Estimated Annual Revenues of the Community Preservation Fund to the Community Preservation Fund Open Space/Recreation Reserve Account. *(majority vote)*

**Third Motion:** I move that \$65,000 be transferred from FY20 Estimated Annual Revenues of the Community Preservation Fund to the Community Preservation Fund Historic Preservation Reserve Account. *(majority vote)*

## SUMMARY EXPLANATION

This article asks Town Meeting to appropriate 10% of the funds received from the CPA surtax into each reserve account designated for Community Housing, Open Space/Recreation, and Historic Preservation. This is the minimum appropriation required by law.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

The Board of Selectmen and Finance Committee recommend approval of Article D.

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## ARTICLE E

**To see if the Town will vote to appropriate and transfer from the Community Preservation Fund or by borrowing the following amounts for the respective purposes indicated:**

***First, \$60,000 to be expended under the oversight of the Department of Public Works, working with the Harbormasters and the Community Preservation Committee, for the creation, construction and installation of a new float system in and for the rehabilitation of the South Harbor;***

## MOTION

**First Motion:** I move that \$60,000 be appropriated and transferred from the Community Preservation Open Space and Recreation Reserve account and expended under the oversight of the DPW Commissioners working with the Harbormasters and the Community Preservation Committee, for the creation, construction and installation of a new float system in the South Harbor.

## RECOMMENDATION

The Board of Selectmen and Finance Committee recommend approval.

***Second, \$100,000 as a grant to the YMCA of Gloucester, a nonprofit corporation duly organized under the law of Massachusetts, to be expended under the oversight of the Board of Selectmen working with the Community Preservation Committee, for the creation, construction, and installation of a Splash Park at the YMCA facility, at and for the rehabilitation and restoration of the old Fuller School site in Gloucester;***

## MOTION

**Second Motion:** I move that \$100,000 be appropriated and transferred from the Community Preservation Undesignated Fund account and expended as a grant to the YMCA of Gloucester, a nonprofit corporation duly organized under the law of Massachusetts, under the oversight of the Board of Selectmen working with the Community Preservation Committee, for the creation construction, and installation of a Splash Park at the YMCA facility, at and for the rehabilitation and restoration of the old Fuller School site in Gloucester.

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## RECOMMENDATION

The Board of Selectmen will consider their recommendation after discussion at Town Meeting. The Finance Committee recommends approval.

***Third, \$95,000 to be expanded under the direction of the DPW Commissioners, working with the Beautification Committee and the Community Preservation Committee, for the restoration and rehabilitation of Harvey Park and Barletta Park;***

## MOTION

**Third Motion:** I move that \$95,000 be appropriated and transferred from the Community Preservation Undesignated Fund account to be expended under the direction of the DPW Commissioners, working with the Beautification Committee and the Community Preservation Committee, for the restoration and rehabilitation of Harvey Park and Barletta Park.

## RECOMMENDATION

The Board of Selectmen and Finance Committee recommend approval.

***Fourth, \$100,000 to be placed in the Conservation Fund, to be administered by the Rockport Conservation Commission, to be used for purposes consistent with the Community Preservation Act;***

## MOTION

**Fourth Motion:** I move that \$100,000 be appropriated and transferred from the Community Preservation Undesignated Fund account to the Conservation Fund, to be administered by the Rockport Conservation Commission, to be used for purposes consistent with the Community Preservation Act.

## RECOMMENDATION

The Board of Selectmen and Finance Committee recommend approval.

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***Fifth, \$30,000 to be expended under the direction of the Thacher & Straitsmouth Islands Town Committee, working with the Community Preservation Committee, for the restoration, rehabilitation and historic preservation of the Thacher Island Assistant Keeper's House;***

## MOTION

**Fifth Motion:** I move that \$30,000 be appropriated and transferred from the Community Preservation Undesignated Fund account to be expended under the direction of the Thacher & Straitsmouth Islands Town Committee, working with the Community Preservation Committee, for the restoration, rehabilitation and historic preservation of the Thacher Island Assistant Keeper's House.

## RECOMMENDATION

The Board of Selectmen and Finance Committee recommend approval.

***Sixth, \$48,500 as a grant to the Rockport Art Association, a nonprofit corporation duly organized under the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, to be expended under the oversight of the Board of Selectmen working with the Community Preservation Committee, for the restoration, rehabilitation and historic preservation of the Old Tavern building;***

## MOTION

**Sixth Motion:** I move that \$48,500 be appropriated and transferred from the Community Preservation Historic Preservation Reserve account as a grant to the Rockport Art Association, a nonprofit corporation duly organized under the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, to be expended under the oversight of the Board of Selectmen working with the Community Preservation Committee, for the restoration, rehabilitation and historic preservation of the Old Tavern building and to authorize the Historical Commission to accept a historic preservation restriction on said building.

## RECOMMENDATION

The Board of Selectmen and Finance Committee recommend approval.

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***Seventh, \$27,000 to be expended under the direction of the DPW Commissioners, working with the Cultural District and the Community Preservation Committee, for the restoration, rehabilitation and preservation of the historic Old Firehouse Trust building;***

## MOTION

**Seventh Motion:** I move that \$27,000 be appropriated and transferred from the Community Preservation Historic Preservation Reserve account to be expended under the direction of the DPW Commissioners, working with the Cultural District and the Community Preservation Committee, for the restoration, rehabilitation and preservation of the historic Old Firehouse Trust building.

## RECOMMENDATION

The Board of Selectmen and Finance Committee recommend approval.

***Eighth, \$180,000 as a grant to the Rockport Housing Authority, a nonprofit corporation duly organized under the laws of Massachusetts, to be expended under the oversight of the Board of Selectmen working with the Community Preservation Committee, for the creation, construction and installation of new roofs at and for the rehabilitation and restoration of the Kitefield Road public housing facility;***

## MOTION

**Eighth Motion:** I move that \$180,000 be appropriated and transferred from the Community Preservation Undesignated Fund account as a grant to the Rockport Housing Authority, a nonprofit corporation duly organized under the laws of Massachusetts, to be expended under the oversight of the Board of Selectmen working with the Community Preservation Committee, for the creation, construction and installation of new roofs at and for the rehabilitation and restoration of the Kitefield Road public housing facility.

## RECOMMENDATION

The Board of Selectmen and Finance Committee recommend approval.

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***Ninth*, \$75,000 as a grant to Action, Inc., a nonprofit corporation duly organized under the laws of Massachusetts, for its Rental/Mortgage Assistance Program for the creation of community housing for Rockport residents, under the supervision of the Board of Selectmen;**

**or act on anything relative thereto.** *(Community Preservation Committee) (Requires majority vote)*

## MOTION

**Ninth Motion:** I move that \$75,000 be appropriated and transferred from the Community Preservation Affordable Housing Reserve account as a grant to Action, Inc., a nonprofit corporation duly organized under the laws of Massachusetts, for its Rental/Mortgage Assistance Program for Rockport residents, under the supervision of the Board of Selectmen.

## RECOMMENDATION

The Board of Selectmen and Finance Committee recommend approval.