

2018 Voters Guide

Article 3

The Conservation Commission by-laws currently requires 7 resident members to make up the body that watches over conservation land/resources within our Town. Currently, there are only 4 active members on the Commission. In order to hold a meeting, they must have a minimum of 4 members in attendance to have a quorum.

A YES vote would mean...

The Conservation Commission would require only 3 members for a quorum. By decreasing the number of members from 7 to 5, it would make it easier to hold meetings as scheduled.

A NO vote would mean...

The Conservation Commission would continue to require 7 members. They would continue to need a minimum of 4 members in order to hold a meeting.

Article 4

Since 2015, each year with voter approval, the rental income from the tenant at 8 Merrimac Rd has been deposited into the Capital Reserve Fund which can only be spent on Engineering and/or Renovation of the land and buildings at the same address. This amount was approved last year.

A YES vote would mean...

Rental income from 8 Merrimac Road can be deposited into the Capital Reserve Fund. These funds could then be directed by a vote of the Board of Selectmen to be used for Engineering and Renovation of the land and buildings belonging to the Town, at 8 Merrimac Road,

A NO vote would mean...

Rental income from 8 Merrimac Road will remain in the General fund. These funds cannot be used for any purposes until a majority vote of the Town moves the money to the Capital Reserve Fund.

Article 5

Currently all costs, including payroll and expenses, for **Uniformed Fire Watch Details** are paid out of the Fire Department budget. Approve establishing a special fund that the fees collected for these services can be deposited into and then used to cover the costs incurred by the Town.

Uniformed Fire Watch Detail Definition: An onsite certified member of the Fire Department dressed in uniform with the necessary equipment to monitor safety issues.

A YES vote would mean...

The Town would create a Revolving Fund to hold the funds paid from Fire Watch Details. This would allow all related personnel and equipment expenses to be paid directly from the fund.

A NO vote would mean...

This fund would not be created. Any related personnel and equipment expenses would be paid from the overall Fire Department budget.

2018 Voters Guide (continued)

Article 6

Currently all costs, including payroll and expenses, incurred by the Fire Department for **Unanticipated Incident deemed Hazardous** are taken out of the Fire Department budget. Approve establishing a special fund that the fees collected for these services can be deposited into and then used to cover the costs incurred by the Town.

Unanticipated Incident deemed Hazardous Definition: An onsite certified member of the Fire Department dressed in uniform with the necessary equipment to monitor incidents involving hazardous materials.

A YES vote would mean...

The Town would create a Revolving Fund to hold the fees paid from Fire Watch Hazardous Incidents. This would allow the Town to use these fees to directly pay for the expenses related to support of the incident.

A NO vote would mean...

This fund would not be created. Any related personnel and equipment expenses would be paid from the current Fire Department budget.

Article 7

Keno was approved by the State legislature in July of 2017. Voters of Each Town/City must approve the operation of Keno games in their respective communities. According to the State law, money collected will go towards funding New Hampshire full-time Kindergarten. Any establishment that wishes to offer Keno games must have a valid liquor license. The state funding received from Keno revenue (up to \$700 per student) would be applied to the costs already in the proposed/default budget.

Official State of New Hampshire Lottery Keno information: <https://www.nhlottery.com/Keno>

For answers to questions: <https://www.nhmunicipal.org/Resources/ViewDocument/882>

A YES vote would mean...

Any establishment in Newton that has a valid liquor license would be able to offer Keno to their customers.

A NO vote would mean...

That no establishment in Newton would be able to offer Keno to their customers.

Article 8

Authorize the Board of Selectmen to acquire or sell land and/or buildings when in the best interests of the Town without having to delay until the next Town Meeting provided it is reviewed by the Planning Board and Conservation Commission first.

A YES vote would mean...

The Board of Selectmen could acquire or sell land, buildings or both, provided they first go to the Planning Board and Conservation Commission for their review and recommendation. For example: The

2018 Voters Guide (continued)

Board of Selectmen could vote to sell the old Fire Station without having to wait to go before voters at Town Meeting in March of 2019.

A NO vote would mean...

In order to acquire or sell land, buildings or both, the Board would need approval of the voters during a March Town Meeting. This would be required for each individual land transaction. For example: The Board of Selectmen could not sell the old Fire Station until they received approval from the voters at Town Meeting in March of 2019.

Article 9

Offset disposal costs by applying \$60,000 from the special revenue fund created for this purpose. This amount was approved last year.

A YES vote would mean...

The Town can withdraw \$60,000 from the Transfer Station/Recycling Special Revenue Fund to off-set the 2018 Solid Waste Disposal budget. Currently there is \$194,622.00 in the Transfer Station/Recycling Special Revenue Fund.

A NO vote would mean...

The Town would not withdraw \$60,000 from the Transfer Station/Recycling Special Revenue Fund and the \$60,000 would be raised by taxes. Currently there is \$194,622.00 in the Transfer Station/Recycling Special Revenue Fund. These funds could be held for use in the future for things such as: Hazardous Waste Day or other specific purposes, if approved by voters at Town Meeting.

Article 10

The Town votes to pay for certain community services. The list of service providers in the article represent services used/offered to town residents and are used by the Newton Police Department, the Newton Fire Department, and the Newton Welfare Department. The amount requested is \$642 more than the amount approved last year.

A YES vote would mean...

That the Community Services listed would be funded as summarized in Article 10 and they will work with the residents and offset the costs to the Town.

A NO vote would mean...

This type of assistance required by Newton residents in need would come directly out of the Welfare Budget.

Article 11

The Newton Recreation Commission is requesting \$4,200 to plan/offer special programs and trips for Newton resident senior citizens. This amount was approved last year.

A YES vote would mean...

2018 Voters Guide (continued)

There would be \$4,200.00 to support programs and trips specifically for Newton Seniors. These events would be planned and organized by the Newton Recreation Commission.

A NO vote would mean...

There would not be \$4,200.00 to support programs and trips specifically for Newton Seniors. Any events for seniors would need to be supported by the Recreation budget if approved.

Article 12

To see if the Town would like to hire two part-time Lifeguards to work at the Town Beach during the summer. Currently there are no lifeguards for swimmer safety.

A YES vote would mean...

The Town would hire lifeguards to oversee the safety of swimmers at the Town Beach. The Town would seek to hire certified lifeguards that could be assigned to the beach during peak hours of the summer months.

A NO vote would mean...

The Town would not hire any lifeguards for the Town Beach. The Town does not currently employ any lifeguards.

Article 13

Raise \$50,000 to place into the Fire Apparatus and Equipment/Refurbishment Fund which can only be used for the intended purpose. The intent is to gradually grow the fund to enable purchasing/refurbishing Apparatus as the need arises.

A YES vote would mean...

The Town will raise \$50,000 to go into the Fire Apparatus and Equipment/Refurbishment Capital Reserve Fund. Currently this fund has a balance of \$2,590.00 Dollars and can only be used for the future purchase of vehicles and equipment/refurbishment.

A NO vote would mean...

\$50,000 will not go into the Fire Apparatus and Equipment/Refurbishment Capital Reserve Fund.

Article 14

Allow the Fire Department or it's designee to enforce a requirement that all buildings or structures that are occupied for residential or commercial purposes are equipped with approved smoke detectors, and carbon monoxide detectors. Enforcement could include fines and/or denial of occupancy permits for non-compliance.

A YES vote would mean...

That the Fire Department would have the authority to inspect smoke and carbon monoxide detectors in any residential or commercial property that is rented, leased or sold.

2018 Voters Guide (continued)

A NO vote would mean...

That the Fire Department would not have the authority to inspect smoke and carbon monoxide detectors in any residential or commercial property unless they were asked by the owner.

Article 15

Direct the Board of Selectmen to issue bulk items voucher every year to “tax-paying households”. This is a warrant article put forward by a Newton resident. As required by state law, this warrant article was approved by a petition of 25 or more registered voters. The costs for each subsequent year would be added to both the default and proposed budgets to be raised by taxes.

A YES vote would mean...

Each tax paying household would receive one voucher per year to be used at the Transfer Station for a one-time drop off, of bulk items, at no cost. This would start in 2019 and continue each year until revoked by a vote of the residents.

A NO vote would mean...

The Board of Selectmen would continue the traditional issuance of one voucher per residential property *every other year*, that could be used at the Transfer Station for a one-time drop off, of bulk items at no cost.