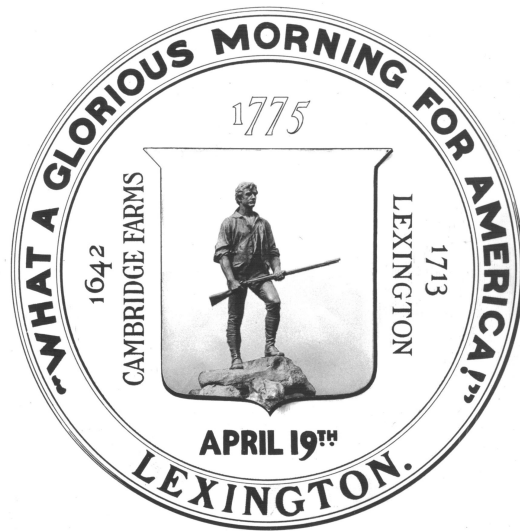


CAPITAL EXPENDITURES COMMITTEE

TOWN OF LEXINGTON



REPORT TO THE
SPECIAL TOWN MEETING (STM) 2023-1
NOVEMBER 7, 2023

Released October 30, 2023

Submitted by:
Charles Lamb, Chair
David G. Kanter, Vice-Chair & Clerk
Sandy Beebee
Michael Boudett
Rodney Cole
Lisah Rhodes

STM 2023-1 Warrant-Article Explanations and Recommendations

Citations of the “Town Warrant” refer to the 2 Oct 2023 approval-signed “Town of Lexington Warrant for the Special Town Meeting 2023-1, November 7, 2023”.

Article 3: Establish, Amend, Dissolve and Appropriate To and From Specified Stabili- zation Funds (SFs) (Only those actions related to Capital)	Funds Requested	Funding Source	Committee Recommends
	Addition to the Capital Stabilization Fund		
	\$2,699,381	New Tax Levy Growth	Approval (6–0)

“To see if the Town will vote to create, amend, dissolve, rename and/or appropriate sums of money to and from Stabilization Funds in accordance with Massachusetts General Laws, Section 5B of Chapter 40 for the purposes of: (a) Section 135 Zoning By-Law; (b) Traffic Mitigation; (c) Transportation Demand Management/Public Transportation; (d) Special Education; (e) Center Improvement District; (f) Transportation Management Overlay District; (g) Capital; (h) Payment in Lieu of Parking; (i) Visitor Center Capital Stabilization Fund; (j) Affordable Housing Capital Stabilization Fund; (k) Water System Capital Stabilization Fund; and (l) Ambulance Stabilization Fund; determine whether such sums shall be provided by the tax levy, by transfer from available funds, from fees, charges or gifts or by any combination of these methods; or act in any other manner in relation thereto”

(Inserted by the Select Board)

“DESCRIPTION: This is an annual article to establish, dissolve, and/or fund Stabilization Funds for specific purposes and to appropriate funds therefrom. Money in those funds may be invested and the interest may then become a part of the particular fund. These funds may later be appropriated for the specific designated purpose by a two-thirds vote of an Annual or Special Town Meeting, for any lawful purpose.”
(Town Warrant)

We applaud the Town's efforts to allocate this stream of one-time revenue from new growth into the Capital Stabilization Fund (CSF) in anticipation of substantial future capital needs. Presently this is targeted for reducing the debt service on the Lexington High School renovation/replacement. The Funds Requested is comprised of \$2,303,236 per the Town's CSF guideline to dedicate commercial property tax growth from specific new developments and an additional \$396,145 from new growth in other property tax categories beyond what is called for in the guideline.

For all SFs, deposits (additions) are approved by a simple majority vote of Town Meeting.

Article 5: Appropriate for Authorized Capital Projects	Funds Requested	Funding Source	Committee Recommends
	N/A	N/A	Approval of IP (6–0)

“To see if the Town will vote to make supplementary appropriations to be used in conjunction with sums appropriated in prior years for the installation or construction of water mains, sewers and sewerage systems, drains, streets, buildings, recreational facilities or other capital improvements and equipment; determine whether the sums shall be provided by the tax levy, by transfer from the balances in other articles, by transfer from available funds, including enterprise funds and the Community Preservation Fund, by borrowing, or by any combination of these methods; or act in any other manner in relation thereto.”

(Inserted by the Select Board)

“DESCRIPTION: This is an annual article to request funds to supplement existing appropriations for certain capital projects in light of revised cost estimates that exceed such appropriations.”
(Town Warrant)

CAPITAL EXPENDITURES COMMITTEE REPORT TO STM 2023-1

Article 8: Appropriate for Speed Hump Pilot Program	Funds Requested	Funding Source	Committee Recommends
	\$101,000	Traffic Mitigation Stabilization Fund	Approval (6-0)

“To see if the Town will vote to appropriate a sum of money for the installation of temporary speed humps on Walnut Street, and determine whether the money shall be provided by the tax levy or by transfer from available funds, or by any combination of these methods, or act in any other manner in relation thereto.

(Inserted by the Select Board at the request of the Transportation Safety Group)

DESCRIPTION: Traffic Safety Group proposes a speed hump pilot project on Walnut Street. The pilot project entails design and installation of temporary rubber speed humps from April to October of 2024. The neighborhood and Lexington staff will then be able to evaluate the effectiveness, and appropriateness of the location before constructing a permanent speed hump.

(Town Warrant)

We understand that a portion of Walnut Street near the Town line has been identified by the Transportation Safety Group (TSG) as an area with recorded chronic speeding issues, and that TSG consulted with both the DPW and the public safety agencies (the police and fire departments) before proposing this pilot project. The rubber speed hump installations will be temporary and will be removed during the winter months to facilitate plowing. The Engineering Department says the costs include the purchase of those temporary speed humps and the contractor costs for installation and removal.

Engineering is recommending 2 locations near that proposed portion of Walnut Street. Each location requires 1 speed hump per lane of traffic so 2 speed humps per location. They also are proposing to have the speed humps installed for 2 years, but still excluding the winter. With the 2 locations, each with 2 speed humps and 2 years and 1 install and 1 removal per year, there will be 8 operations involved.

If successful in reducing those speeding issues, there may be a follow-on expanded program involving permanent humps. They would be constructed of asphalt and left in place throughout the year.