



Town of Nantucket Finance Committee

January 23rd, 2025 – Minutes

REMOTE PARTICIPATION VIA ZOOM

Staff:	Brian Turbitt, Finance Director, Steven Hunter, Financial Analyst,
Attending Members:	Denice Kronau, Chair, Peter Schaeffer, Joseph Wright, Jeremy Bloomer, Stephen Maury, Rob Giacchetti, Joanna Roche
Absent Members:	Jill Vieth, Chris Glowacki

Approval of Agenda and Public Comment

- Denice Kronau calls the meeting to order and requests approval of the agenda, which is moved by Peter, seconded by Joe. **Roll call vote: Joe Aye, Peter Aye, Rob Aye, Stephen Aye, Denice Aye. Passes Unanimously.**
- Denice Kronau opens the floor for public comment, but no one raises their hand, so she closes it.
- The first item on the agenda is a discussion on citizen warrant article D, which aims to rescind unused borrowing authority for the affordable housing trust fund.

Introduction of Citizen Warrant Article D – Rescind Unused Borrowing Authority – Affordable Housing Trust Fund

- Denice introduces Toby Brown, who is present to explain the article and seek a positive motion from the Finance Committee.
- Toby Brown explains the concerns of taxpayers about increasing taxes and the slow progress of the Wiggles Way project, which is over budget and behind schedule.
- Toby Brown argues that rescinding the \$6.5 million borrowing authority would force the affordable housing trust to be more accountable and efficient.

Citizen Warrant Article D - Concerns About the Speed and Efficiency of Housing Projects

- Stephen Maury expresses concerns about the speed and efficiency of housing projects and the need for greater transparency.
- Stephen Maury mentions the term "heads in beds" and emphasizes the importance of not just how fast projects are completed but how efficiently they are done.
- Stephen Maury suggests that the community's growing sense of distrust in how things are being run is a wake-up call for better planning and proactive reporting.

Citizen Warrant Article D - Discussion on the Legal Form of the Article

- John Giorgio points out that the article is not in proper legal form and cannot be acted on at town meeting.
- John explains that the \$6.5 million appropriation was contingent on the passage of an override, which resulted in a permanent increase in the town's levy limit.
- John clarifies that the only way to change this is through an override, which can only be initiated by the Select Board and placed on the election ballot.

Citizen Warrant Article D - Toby's Response and Legal Clarifications

- Toby questions whether the article can be amended on the town meeting floor and whether it would go to the Attorney General for review.
- Denice and John clarify that the article is on the warrant and will go to town meeting, but it is legally flawed and cannot achieve its intended goal.
- John explains that the Attorney General does not review these kinds of meetings and that the only way to achieve Toby's goal is through an override vote initiated by the Select Board.
- Motion not to adopt Citizen Warrant Article D (Rescind Unused Borrowing Authority – Affordable Housing Trust Fund) made by Peter, seconded by Joe. **Roll call vote: Jeremy Aye, Joe Aye, Rob Aye, Peter Aye, Stephen Aye, Joanna Aye, Denice Aye. Passes Unanimously.**

Discussion on Citizen Warrant Article V – Charter Change – Notices of Public Hearings

- Jason Graziadei introduces the article, which aims to allow the town to publish legal notices and public hearings in electronic media outlets in addition to newspapers.
- Jason Graziadei explains that this could provide another option to reach more people and potentially save money.
- Peter raises concerns about the cost, but Jason argues that it could save money if the town chooses to do so.

Citizen Warrant Article V – Town Admin's Recommendation and Committee's Decision

- Town Administration recommends the article, noting that it could provide additional flexibility but is unlikely to result in significant cost savings.
- Rob supports the article, noting the generational shift in how people get their news.

- Motion to adopt Citizen Warrant Article V (Charter Change – Notices of Public Hearings) made by Peter, seconded by Jeremy. **Roll call vote: Jeremy Aye, Joe Aye, Peter Aye, Rob Aye, Stephen Aye, Joanna Aye, Denice Aye. Passes Unanimously.**

Postponement of Steven Welch's Citizen Warrant Articles Y and Z and General Discussion

- Denice announces that Steven Welch's articles will be postponed until February 6 due to a family issue.
- Denice notes that only 12 of the 26 citizen warrant articles Finance Committee is the primary recommendation for the Articles, with three related to short-term rentals.

Planning Board Recommendations, Meeting Schedule, and Adjournment

- Denice mentions that the Planning Board will make their recommendations on February 10, and the committee will fit in the remaining meetings to get through the entire warrant.
- Denice warns that the upcoming meetings will be longer and more intensive, and she hopes the committee will continue to be efficient.
- The committee has no other business and moves to adjourn the meeting.
- Motion to adjourn made by Peter, seconded by Joe. **Roll call vote: Jeremy Aye, Joe Aye, Peter Aye, Stephen Aye, Joanna Aye, Rob Aye, Denice Aye. Passes Unanimously.**