



Article: 8

Warrant Article Title:

BYLAW AMENDMENT / REGULATION OF OUTDOOR LIGHTING

Warrant Article Text:

To see if the Town will vote to amend Title V, Article 14 of the Town Bylaws ("Regulation of Outdoor Lighting") to update the standards for outdoor lighting to comport with the 2024 Dark Skies International model bylaw; or take any action related thereto

Requested By:

the Department of Planning and Community Development

Report Excerpt:

Vote and comment to Town Meeting - No Action (5-0)

At its initial hearing on this article, the Board heard from the Town's Environmental Planner about the long-term advantages of making this update. After the hearing, the Board received additional information from the Town Manager indicating that implementation of the proposed bylaw amendment could result in significant expenses, including the need to purchase and annually calibrate new equipment, seek specialized employee training, as well as personnel costs. Since there is already an outdoor lighting policy in the town's bylaws, the Board believes it would be better to hold off any updates until all of the cost-related implications of the proposed changes can be vetted by impacted parties, especially the town's Inspectional Services Department. Accordingly, the Board voted unanimously that no action be taken on this article.

[The Finance Committee] recommends no action be taken under this article. This Article, which will amend the Town's existing Outdoor Lighting Bylaw to comply with new, more exacting nighttime lighting standards, will require a more complicated inspection and review process than is currently being implemented. It is estimated that to meet these new voluntary standards, the Town will have to incur approximately \$45,000 each year in additional personnel and equipment costs. The Finance Committee does not believe that this is a prudent use of funds at this time, and reminds Town Meeting that the Town and School Department, as well as all of our Town committees and commissions, have agreed to reduce their expenses this year to balance our FY2027 budget. When these sacrifices are being made, we should not, at the same time, assume any additional and unnecessary financial obligations.

Vote Language:

That no action be taken on Article 8.

[Select Board Report](#)