



Article: 14

Warrant Article Title:

BYLAW AMENDMENT / TREE COMMITTEE RULES AND PROCEDURES

Warrant Article Text:

To see if the Town will vote to amend Title II of the Town Bylaws to establish formal rules and procedures for the Arlington Tree Committee, including but not limited to the number of members, terms of office, and duties and responsibilities; or take any action related thereto.

Requested By:

the Arlington Tree Committee

Report Excerpt:

Vote and comment to Town Meeting - Favorable Action (5-0)

This Board heard from Steven Moore, Co-Chair of the Arlington Tree Committee regarding this article. Mr. Moore provided the Board with a history of the Tree Committee's creation and work since 2003. Mr. Moore also explained the purpose of this proposed bylaw, which is to standardize and formalize the committee and its membership. Town Counsel reported to the Board that the proposed bylaw does not change the committee's purpose or the limits of its authority. Further, if approved, the Select Board will remain the Tree Committee's appointing authority.

The Board expressed its ongoing support for the work of the Tree Committee as it remains committed to the task of helping to protect the town's tree canopy. The Board made some changes to

the draft language that ensured consistency with the committee's mission and the article proponent agrees that the changes were appropriate. After discussion, the Board voted unanimously in support of this article.

Vote Language:

That the Town does and hereby amends Title II of the Town's Bylaws, to introduce a new Article 17 so as to read:

ARTICLE 17
ARLINGTON TREE COMMITTEE

Section 1. Membership

The Arlington Tree Committee (ATC) shall consist of nine voting members, to be appointed by the Select Board. Three shall be appointed for an initial term of three years; three for an initial term of two years; and three for an initial term of one year. There shall be a non-voting liaison representative from the Department of Public Works. A quorum shall consist of a majority of the voting members. The Committee shall organize for the conduct of its affairs, and shall elect its own officers.

All appointments, and reappointments upon the expiration of the original term of appointment, shall be for three years. Members shall serve until their successors are qualified and duly appointed. When a voting member resigns prior to term completion, any successor member shall be appointed only for the remaining balance of that term, after which reappointment shall be required.

Section 2. Mission and Purpose

The mission of the Arlington Tree Committee is to promote the protection, planting, and care of trees in Arlington. The ATC shall support the Town Tree Warden and the Arlington Department of Public Works, and work with them on tree-related issues.

The ATC shall advise the Town and advocate for policies and procedures which align with the Town's recognition of the

importance of trees to the quality of life in Arlington. To this end, the ATC shall assist with and advocate for: increasing tree planting with adequate watering, particularly in areas of Town with low tree cover; increasing public awareness of the environmental, economic, and health benefits of trees and a robust tree canopy in Arlington; and provide guidance, outreach, education, resources and programs at all levels within the community, to help support tree selection, planting, survival, and stewardship.

[Select Board Report](#)