



TOWN OF BLACKSTONE
WARRANT FOR ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
May 27, 2025
7:30 PM

Worcester, SS:

To either of the Constables of the Town of Blackstone in the County of Worcester.

Greetings:

In the name of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, you are hereby directed to notify the inhabitants of Precinct #1, Precinct #2 and Precinct #3 in the Town of Blackstone, qualified to vote in Town Affairs to meet in the Blackstone-Millville Regional Molony-Sullivan School Auditorium in said Town of Blackstone on Tuesday, May 27, 2025, at 7:30 p.m. then and there to act upon the articles of the Warrant.

ARTICLE 1. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Collector to use all means of collecting taxes that a Treasurer may use when appointed Collector, or take any other action in relation thereto.

(Submitted by the Board of Selectmen)

Majority Vote Required

Article Summary:

The Town has accepted M.G.L. c. 41, § 38, which provides that the Town may authorize its collector of taxes to use all means of collecting taxes which a town treasurer may use when appointed a collector of taxes. These means are dictated by M.G.L. c. 60, § 90, which allows the collector to issue warrants to collect to a deputy collector in the same form and conferring the same powers as warrants by assessors to collectors.

ARTICLE 2. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate such sums of money as may be deemed necessary to fix the salaries of all elected and appointed Town officers and to defray Town expenses for all departments, including the Reserve Fund, for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2026 and to determine how such sums of money should be raised, whether from the current tax levy, by transfer from available funds, or otherwise, or take any other action in relation thereto.

(Submitted by the Board of Selectmen)

Majority Vote Required

Article Summary:

Towns are required to set the salary and compensation of all elected and appointed officers of the town at the annual town meeting and determine the Town's operating budget for the fiscal year.

ARTICLE 3. To see if the Town will vote to compensate the members of Boards and Committees of the Town of Blackstone for their services and to set the amount of said compensation; said compensation set by Town Meeting to be paid in four (4) equal installments provided, however, that no such installment shall be paid a) to a member who has not attended at least 60% of the meetings of the respective Boards and Committees

(excluding, however, any meetings not attended by such member due to the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 268A) in the twelve (12) month period prior to March, June, September and December, as the case may be, if such member has been a member for twelve (12) or more months prior to each of said dates; or b) to a member who has not attended at least 60% of the meetings of the various Boards and Committees (excluding, however, any meetings not attended by such member due to the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 268A) in the period prior to each of said dates if such member has not been a member for twelve (12) or more months prior to each of said dates, or take any other action in relation thereto.

(Submitted by the Board of Selectmen)
Majority Vote Required

Article Summary:

Article IX, §C9-14 of the Town Charter provides that "All Town officials who receive remuneration shall be compensated in an amount approved annually by Town Meeting."

ARTICLE 4. To see if the Town will vote to compensate the members of the Blackstone-Millville Regional District School Committee for their services as such members and to set the amount of said compensation at \$1,500.00 per member and \$1,800.00 for the Chairman, such compensation to be paid in three (3) equal installments in the months of July, November and March provided, however, that no such installment shall be paid a) to a member who is not in attendance of at least 60% of the meetings of the District School Committee (excluding, however, any meetings not attended by such members due to the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 268A) in the twelve (12) month period prior to July 1, November 1 or March 1, as the case may be, if such member has been a member for twelve (12) months or more months prior to each of said dates; or b) to a member who has not attended at least 60% of the meetings of the District School Committee (excluding, however, any meetings not attended by such member due to the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 268A) in the period prior to each of said dates, or take any other action in relation thereto.

(Submitted by the Blackstone-Millville Regional School District)
Majority Vote Required

Article Summary:

Article IX, §C9-14 of the Town Charter provides that "All Town officials who receive remuneration shall be compensated in an amount approved annually by Town Meeting."

ARTICLE 5. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds a sum of money to overlay town streets and roads to be determined by the Board of Selectmen, or for the construction, reconstruction and improvement of public ways and street drainage systems and to determine how such sums may be raised, whether by advancement from Town Treasury, or by borrowing in anticipation of reimbursement by the Commonwealth, or otherwise, by the Treasurer, with approval of the Board of Selectmen, or take any other action in relation thereto.

(Submitted by the Board of Selectmen)
Majority Vote Required

Article Summary:

This Article allows the Town to raise, appropriate, or transfer funds for the stated purposes.

ARTICLE 6. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to enter into contracts on such terms and conditions as the Board of Selectmen may determine for the construction, reconstruction and improvements of public ways, street drainage systems and sidewalks throughout the Town, or take any other action in relation thereto.

(Submitted by the Board of Selectmen)
Majority Vote Required

Article Summary:
Per M.G.L. c. 40, § 4, the Town has the power to make contracts on terms and conditions authorized by Town Meeting, as long as such contracts are a legal exercise of the Town’s corporate powers.

ARTICLE 7. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to acquire by gift, purchase, or eminent domain an easement or easements for the purpose of construction, installation, maintenance and repair of municipal drainage, sewer water systems, and roadways, and to raise and appropriate or transfer from any available funds a sum of money to fund such acquisitions, or take any other action in relation thereto.

(Submitted by the Board of Selectmen)
Two Thirds Vote Required

Article Summary:
M.G.L. c. 40, § 14 allows the Board of Selectmen to acquire, by purchase or eminent domain, any easement within the town for any municipal purpose. The statute requires Town Meeting to authorize and appropriate funds for the acquisition.

ARTICLE 8. To see if the Town will vote to appropriate \$150,000.00 to fund FY2026 expenses of the PEG Access and Cable Related Fund, as established by the vote under Article 29 of the May 28, 2019 Annual Town Meeting, pursuant to Mass General Law, Chapter 44, Section 53F³/₄, said appropriation to be funded by fees received pursuant to the Town’s cable licensing agreement and cable franchise agreement, with the fund to begin operation for FY2026 effective July 1, 2025, or take any other action in relation thereto.

(Submitted by the Board of Selectmen)
Majority Vote Required

Article Summary:
The Town voted in 2019 to accept M.G.L. c. 44, § 53F³/₄, which authorizes the Town to establish as separate revenue account known as the PEG Access and Cable Related Fund, to reserve cable franchise fees and cable-related revenues. Moneys in the Fund may only be appropriated for cable-related expenses consistent with the franchise agreement, including, but not limited to: (i) support of public, educational, or governmental access (“PEG access”) cable television services; (ii) monitor compliance of the cable operator with the franchise agreement; or (iii) prepare for renewal of the franchise license.

ARTICLE 9. To see if the Town will vote, pursuant to M.G.L. c. 44 § 53 as amended by c. 77, §§ 9 and 197 of the Acts of 2023, to establish an Opioid Settlement Special Revenue Fund; and further, to transfer \$21,122.99 previously received from opioid settlements from free cash to said fund; or take any other action in relation thereto.

(Submitted by the Town Accountant)
Majority Vote Required

Article Summary:

The Legislature has authorized municipalities to place opioid settlement receipts in a special revenue fund. The funds may then be expended without further appropriation at the direction of the chief executive officer, only for the purpose identified in said settlement agreements. Blackstone had previously received opioid settlement funds, which had closed to free cash, and this article will transfer those funds into the new special revenue fund.

ARTICLE 10. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, or borrow a sum of money not to exceed \$300,000 for design services for the Saint Paul Street bridge replacement, or take any other action in relation thereto.

(Submitted by the Town Administrator)

Majority Vote Required (2/3rds Vote Required for Borrowing)

Article Summary:

This Article would provide funding for the design services for the replacement of the Saint Paul Street bridge.

ARTICLE 11. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, or borrow the sum of \$275,000.00 for the replacement of the baler at the Recycling Center and any other related costs, or take any other action in relation thereto.

(Submitted by the Town Administrator)

Majority Vote Required (2/3rds Vote Required for Borrowing)

Article Summary:

This Article would provide funding for the replacement of the baler at the Recycling Center.

ARTICLE 12. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, or borrow the sum of \$57,965.00 for the replacement of the skid steer machine at the Recycling Center and any other related costs, or take any other action in relation thereto.

(Submitted by the Town Administrator)

Majority Vote Required (2/3rds Vote Required for Borrowing)

Article Summary:

This Article would provide funding for the replacement of one of the skid steer machines used at the Recycling Center.

ARTICLE 13. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, or borrow the sum of \$50,000.00 to be expended under the direction of the Department of Public Works, for the purpose of maintaining the flood dike/levee and Lake Hiawatha dam per State and Federal inspections, or take any other action in relation thereto.

(Submitted by the Public Works Director)

Majority Vote Required (2/3rds Vote Required for Borrowing)

Article Summary:

This Article would provide funding for repair and maintenance costs of the Lake Hiawatha dam and the flood dike/levee.

ARTICLE 14. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, or borrow the sum of \$60,000.00 to supplement the appropriation made for the purchase of a new truck with sander body and plow package that was approved by Article 12, of the May 28, 2024 Annual Town Meeting, or take any other action in relation thereto.

(Submitted by the Public Works Director)
Majority Vote Required (2/3rds Vote Required for Borrowing)

Article Summary:

This Article would provide \$60,000 in additional funding to supplement the cost of a new truck with sander body and plow package that was approved in the amount of \$175,000 by Article 12 of the May 28, 2024 Annual Town Meeting.

ARTICLE 15. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, or borrow the sum of \$300,000.00 for pavement reconstruction, paving, and sidewalks on Residential Lane, Crestwood Drive, Federal Street, and Farm Street (from Summer St to Hop Brook Lane, or take any other action in relation thereto.

(Submitted by the Public Works Director)
Majority Vote Required (2/3rds Vote Required for Borrowing)

Article Summary:

This Article would provide funding for road repair and reconstruction on Residential Lane, Crestwood Drive, Federal Street, and Farm Street (from Summer Street to Hop Brook Lane).

ARTICLE 16. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, or borrow a sum of \$1,500,000.00 for the water meter replacement program including the upgrade of the water meter software and any other related costs, or take any other action in relation thereto.

(Submitted by the Public Works Director)
Majority Vote Required (2/3rds Vote Required for Borrowing)

Article Summary:

This Article would provide funding for the water meter replacement throughout Town. This replacement would also include the upgrade of the software to integrate with the new meter system.

ARTICLE 17. To see if the Town will vote to amend Chapter 110, the Town's Stormwater Management and Land Disturbance bylaw, where strikethrough text indicates deletions and bolded text indicates new text to be inserted, as follows:

§ 110-1. Purpose.

The purposes of this chapter are to protect water resources, prevent pollutants from entering the Town's municipal separate storm sewer system (MS4), prohibit and remove illicit connections and unauthorized discharges to the MS4, promote the infiltration and recharge of groundwater, ensure that soil erosion and sedimentation control measures and runoff control practices are incorporated into the site planning and design process and are implemented and maintained, comply with state and federal statutes and regulations relating to discharges and establish the legal authority to ensure compliance with the provisions of this chapter through inspection, monitoring, and enforcement.

§ 110-2. Definitions.

The following definitions, as well as any definitions included in the Stormwater Rules and Regulations, shall apply to this chapter.

AGRICULTURE

~~The normal maintenance or improvement of land in agricultural use, as defined by MGL c. 128, § 1A.~~

CERTIFIED PROFESSIONAL IN EROSION AND SEDIMENT CONTROL (CPESC)

A certified specialist in soil erosion and sediment control. This certification program, sponsored by the Soil and Water Conservation Society in cooperation with the American Society of Agronomy, provides the public with evidence of professional qualifications.

CLEARING

~~Any activity that removes the vegetative surface cover.~~

CONSTRUCTION AND WASTE MATERIALS

~~Excess or discarded building or site materials, including but not limited to concrete truck washout, chemicals, litter and sanitary waste at a construction site that may adversely impact water quality.~~

EROSION

~~The wearing away of the land surface by natural or artificial forces such as wind, water, ice, gravity, or vehicle traffic and the subsequent detachment and transportation of soil particles.~~

EROSION AND SEDIMENTATION CONTROL PLAN

A document containing narrative, drawings and details developed by a qualified professional engineer (PE) or a certified professional in erosion and sedimentation control (CPESC), which includes best management practices, or equivalent measures designed to control surface runoff, erosion and sedimentation during pre-construction and construction-related land disturbance activities.

ESTIMATED HABITAT OF RARE WILDLIFE AND CERTIFIED VERNAL POOLS

~~Habitats delineated for state-protected rare wildlife and certified vernal pools for use with the Wetlands Protection Act Regulations (310 CMR 10.00) and the Forest Cutting Practices Act Regulations (304 CMR 11.00).~~

ILLICIT CONNECTION

A surface or subsurface drain or conveyance, which allows an illicit discharge into the municipal separate storm sewer drain system, including, without limitation, sewage, process wastewater, or wash water and any connections from indoor drains, sinks, or toilets, regardless of whether said connection was previously allowed, permitted, or approved before the effective date of this chapter.

ILLICIT DISCHARGE

Direct or indirect discharge to the municipal storm drain system that is not composed entirely of stormwater, except as exempted in § 110-4. The term does not include a discharge in compliance with an NPDES stormwater discharge permit or a surface water

discharge permit, or resulting from fire-fighting activities exempted pursuant to § 110-4A(4), of this chapter.

IMPERVIOUS SURFACE

~~My material or structure on or above the ground that prevents water from infiltrating the underlying soil. Impervious surface includes, without limitation, roads, paved parking lots, sidewalks, and rooftops.~~

MASSACHUSETTS ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT

~~MGL c. 131A and its implementing regulations at 321 CMR 10.00 which prohibit the "taking" of any rare plant or animal species listed as endangered, threatened, or of special concern.~~

MASSACHUSETTS STORMWATER MANAGEMENT POLICY

~~The policy issued by the Department of Environmental Protection, and as amended, that coordinates the requirements prescribed by state regulations promulgated under the authority of the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act MGL c. 131, § 40, and the Massachusetts Clean Waters Act MGL c. 21, § 23 through 56. The policy addresses impacts through implementation of performance standards to reduce or prevent pollutants from reaching water bodies and control the quantity of runoff from a site.~~

MUNICIPAL SEPARATE STORM SEWER SYSTEM (MS4) OR MUNICIPAL STORM DRAIN SYSTEM

~~The system of conveyances designed or used for collecting or conveying, including any road with a drainage system, street, gutter, curb, inlet, piped storm drain, pumping facility, retention or detention basin, natural or man-made or altered drainage channel, reservoir, and other drainage structure that together comprise the storm drainage system owned or operated by the Town of Blackstone.~~

PRIORITY HABITAT OF RARE SPECIES

~~Habitats delineated for rare plant and animal populations protected pursuant to the Massachusetts Endangered Species Act and its regulations.~~

RUNOFF

~~Rainfall, snowmelt, or irrigation water flowing over the ground surface.~~

STABILIZATION

~~The use, singly or in combination, of mechanical, structural, or vegetative methods to prevent or retard erosion.~~

STORMWATER

~~Snowmelt runoff, surface water runoff and drainage.~~

STRIP

~~Any activity which removes the vegetative ground surface cover, including tree removal, clearing, grubbing, and storage or removal of topsoil.~~

VERNAL POOLS

~~Temporary bodies of fresh water which provide critical habitat for a number of vertebrate and invertebrate wildlife species.~~

~~WATERCOURSE~~

~~A natural or man-made channel through which water flows or a stream of water, including a river, brook, or underground stream.~~

WETLAND RESOURCE AREA

Areas specified in the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act MGL c. 131, § 40 and in the Town's Wetland Bylaw.

§ 110-3. Legislative authority.

This chapter is adopted under authority granted by the Home Rule Amendment of the Massachusetts Constitution, the Home Rule statutes, and pursuant to the regulations of the federal Clean Water Act found at 40 CFR 122.34.

§ 110-4. Applicability; exemptions.

This chapter shall apply to:

A. The Town's municipal separate stormwater sewer system as follows:

- (1) Illicit discharges. No person shall dump, discharge, cause or allow to be discharged any pollutant or non-**stormwater** discharge into the municipal separate storm sewer system (MS4), into a watercourse, or into the waters of the commonwealth.
- (2) Illicit connections. No person shall construct, use, allow, maintain or continue any illicit connection to the municipal storm drain system, regardless of whether the connection was permissible under applicable law, regulation or custom at the time of connection.
- (3) Obstruction of municipal storm drain system. No person shall obstruct or interfere with the normal flow into or out of the municipal storm drain system without prior written approval from the ~~Director~~ **Superintendent** of Public Works.
- (4) The following non-**stormwater** discharges or flows are exempt from the prohibition of non-**stormwater** discharges, provided that the source is not a significant contributor of a pollutant to the municipal storm drain system:
 - (a) Waterline flushing;
 - (b) Flow from potable water sources;
 - (c) Springs;
 - (d) Natural flow from riparian habitats and wetlands;
 - (e) Diverted stream flow;
 - (f) Rising groundwater;
 - (g) Uncontaminated groundwater infiltration as defined in 40 CFR 35.2005(20), or uncontaminated pumped groundwater;
 - (h) Water from exterior foundation drains, footing drains (not including active groundwater dewatering systems), crawl space pumps, or air-conditioning condensation;
 - (i) Discharge from landscape irrigation or lawn watering;
 - (j) Water from individual residential car washing;
 - (k) Discharge from dechlorinated swimming pool water (less than one ppm chlorine), provided the water is allowed to stand for one week prior to draining and the pool is drained in such a way as not to cause a nuisance;

- (l) Discharge from street sweeping;
- (m) Dye testing, provided verbal notification is given to the ~~Director~~ **Superintendent** of Public Works prior to the time of the test;
- (n) **Non-stormwater** discharges permitted under an NPDES permit or a surface water discharge permit, waiver, or waste discharge order administered under the authority of the United States Environmental Protection Agency or the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection, provided that the discharge is in full compliance with the requirements of the permit, waiver, or order and applicable laws and regulations; and
- (o) Discharge for which advanced written approval is received from the ~~Director~~ **Superintendent** of Public Works as necessary to protect public health, safety, welfare or the environment.

B. Land disturbance activities as follows:

- (1) All activities that result in the disturbance of land whose actual dimensions of disturbance total 20,000 or more square feet, or are part of a **larger common plan of development or phased plan** that will ultimately result in disturbance of 20,000 or more square feet and that are associated with a building permit or driveway permit.
- (2) Except as authorized by the Planning Board in a land disturbance permit or as otherwise provided in this chapter, no person shall perform any activity that results in disturbance of 20,000 square feet or more of land. Disturbance shall be construed to mean the removal of vegetation, mineral substances or other natural or man-made materials that exposes loose soil, making it vulnerable to erosion.

C. The following activities are exempt from the requirement to obtain a separate land disturbance permit:

- (1) ~~(1)~~ Normal maintenance and improvement of land in agricultural use, as defined by ~~MGL c. 128, § 1A~~ **the Wetlands Protection Act regulation 310 CMR 10.04.**
- (2) **Normal maintenance of Town owned public land, ways and appurtenances.**
- (3) **Maintenance of existing landscaping, gardens or lawn areas appurtenant to a single family dwelling.**
- (4) **Repair or replacement of an existing roof of a single family dwelling.**
- (5) **Construction of fencing that will not alter existing terrain or drainage patterns.**
- (6) ~~(2)~~ Stormwater discharges that demonstrate compliance with the Massachusetts Stormwater Management ~~Policy~~ Handbook and Stormwater Standards resulting from the above activities that are subject to jurisdiction under:
 - (a) The Wetlands Protection Act and an order of conditions issued by the Conservation Commission;
 - (b) A permit from the Board of Health for a new or replacement septic system or well.
- (7) ~~(3)~~ For projects subject to site plan review, a Planning Board special permit or

approval under the Subdivision Control Law, a land disturbance permit shall be reviewed and issued by the Planning Board simultaneously as part of those other review and approval processes.

§ 110-5. Administration.

- A. The ~~Director~~ **Superintendent** of Public Works, under the direction of the Town Administrator and Board of Selectmen, shall administer, implement and enforce this chapter as it pertains to illicit discharges and connections.
- B. The Planning Board shall administer and implement this chapter as it pertains to land disturbance. Enforcement shall be the responsibility of the Building Inspector or other agent that may be designated, in writing, by the Planning Board.
- C. Rules and regulations. The ~~Director~~ **Superintendent** of Public Works and the Planning Board may each adopt and periodically amend rules and regulations to effectuate the purposes of this chapter. Failure to promulgate such rules and regulations shall not have the effect of suspending or invalidating this chapter. The Conservation Commission, Planning Board and Board of Health shall ensure that their rules and regulations require compliance with the purposes of this section for projects that are within their jurisdiction and exempt from the permitting provisions of this section.
- D. Waiver. The ~~Director~~ **Superintendent** of Public Works and the Planning Board may waive strict compliance with any requirement of this chapter under their jurisdiction or the rules and regulations promulgated hereunder based on the scale, nature and location of the proposed activity, where such action:
 - (1) Is allowed by federal, state and local statutes and/or regulations;
 - (2) Is in the public interest, and
 - (3) Is not inconsistent with the purpose and intent of this chapter.

§ 110-6. Land disturbance permit procedure.

- A. Application. A completed application for a land disturbance permit shall be filed with the Planning Board. A permit must be obtained prior to the commencement of land-disturbing activity that may result in the disturbance of an area of 20,000 square feet or more. The land disturbance permit application package shall include: **the items detailed in the Stormwater Rules and Regulations.**
 - ~~(1) A completed application form with original signatures of all owners.~~
 - ~~(2) Seven copies of the erosion and sediment control plan as specified in § 110-7 of this chapter.~~
 - ~~(3) One copy of the application form to be filed with the Town Clerk by the Planning Board.~~
- B. Entry. The filing of an application for a permit hereunder shall grant to and vest in the Planning Board or its agent, permission to enter the site described in such application to verify the information in the application and to inspect for compliance with permit conditions.
- C. Other boards.

- (1) Following a determination of completeness, the Planning Board shall submit a copy of the application form to the Town Clerk, and shall provide one copy of the application package to the:
 - (a) Conservation Commission.
 - (b) Department of Public Works.
 - (c) Board of Health.
 - (d) Board of Selectmen.
 - (2) These entities shall provide comments to the Planning Board and/or sign off on the application within 21 days of receipt of the application package, unless an extension is granted by the applicant. Failure to provide comments within the specified time shall be interpreted as no opposition to the application. Each Board and Commission may delegate sign-off authority to its chairman or other designated member.
- D. Information requests. The applicant shall submit all additional information requested by the Planning Board as said Planning Board shall deem necessary in order for it to issue a decision on the application.
- E. Action by the Planning Board. The Planning Board may:
- (1) Approve the land disturbance permit application and issue a permit if it finds that the ~~proposed plan will protect water resources and meets the objectives and performance standards~~ and requirements of this chapter **and the rules and regulations have been met.**
 - (2) Approve the land disturbance permit application and issue a permit with conditions, modifications or restrictions that the Planning Board determines are required to ensure that the ~~proposed plan will protect water resources and meets the objectives~~ **performance standards** and requirements of this chapter **and the rules and regulations are met.**
 - (3) Disapprove the land disturbance permit application and deny the permit if it finds that the ~~proposed plan will not protect water resources or fails to meet the objectives~~ **performance standards** and requirements of this chapter **and the rules and regulations have not been met.**
 - (4) **Disapprove the land disturbance permit application “without prejudice” where an applicant fails to provide requested additional information or review fees that in the Planning Board’s opinion are needed to adequately describe or review the proposed project.**
- F. Failure of the Planning Board to take one of the above-referenced three actions upon an application within ~~45~~ **90** days of receipt of a completed application shall be deemed an approval of said application. Upon certification by the Town Clerk that the allowed time has passed without the Planning Board's action, the land disturbance permit shall be issued by the Planning Board.
- G. Fee structure. Each application must be accompanied by the appropriate application fee as established by the Planning Board. Applicants shall pay review fees as determined by the Planning Board sufficient to cover any expenses connected with the review of the land disturbance permit application before the review process commences. The Planning Board is hereby authorized to retain a registered professional engineer or such other professional consultants as it may deem necessary to advise the Planning Board on any or all aspects of the application, and a reasonable fee for the employment of such consultants may be

imposed in accordance with the provisions of MGL c. 44, § 53G, or any other enabling authority.

- H. Project changes. The permittee, or its agent, must notify the Planning Board, in writing, of any change or alteration of a permitted land-disturbing activity authorized in a land disturbance permit before any change or alteration occurs. If the Planning Board determines that the change or alteration is significant, based on the design requirements listed in § 110-7B and accepted construction practices, the Planning Board may, in its discretion, require that an amended land disturbance permit application be filed. If any change or alteration from activities permitted by the land disturbance permit occurs during any land-disturbing activities, the Planning Board may require the installation of interim erosion and sedimentation control measures before approving any such change or alteration.

§ 110-7. Erosion and sediment control plan.

- A. The erosion and sediment control plan shall contain sufficient information to describe the nature and purpose of the proposed development, pertinent conditions of the site and the adjacent areas, and proposed erosion and sedimentation controls. The applicant shall submit such material and information as the Planning Board shall deem necessary to show that the proposed development will comply with the design requirements listed in Subsection B below **and the Stormwater Rules and Regulations.**

- B. **The Erosion and sediment control plan shall be submitted showing the location of all proposed erosion and sedimentation control measures, and such other information as required by the Planning Board. Applications shall provide construction details for all proposed erosion and sedimentation controls. The plan shall be designed in accordance with the Massachusetts Erosion and Sediment Control Guidelines for Urban and Suburban Areas, the Massachusetts Stormwater Management Handbook, and if applicable, the NPDES General Permit for Storm Water Discharges from Construction Activities. The plan shall ensure that the Massachusetts Surface Water Quality Standards (314 CMR 4.00) are met. The design requirements of the erosion and sediment control plan shall:**

- ~~(1) Minimize the total area of disturbance;~~
- ~~(2) Sequence activities to minimize simultaneous areas of disturbance;~~
- ~~(3) Minimize peak rate of runoff in accordance with the Massachusetts Stormwater Management Policy;~~
- ~~(4) Minimize soil erosion and control sedimentation during construction, provided that prevention of erosion is preferred over sedimentation control;~~
- ~~(5) Divert uncontaminated water around disturbed areas;~~
- ~~(6) Maximize groundwater recharge;~~
- ~~(7) Install and maintain all erosion and sediment control measures in accordance with the manufacturers' specifications and good engineering practices;~~
- ~~(8) Prevent off site transport of sediment;~~

- ~~(9) Protect and manage on- and off-site material storage areas (overburden and stockpiles of dirt, borrow areas, or other areas used solely in conjunction with the permitted project are considered a part of the project);~~
- ~~(10) Comply with applicable federal, state and local laws and regulations, including waste disposal, sanitary sewer or septic system regulations, and air quality requirements, including dust control;~~
- ~~(11) Prevent significant alteration of habitats mapped by the Massachusetts Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program as endangered, threatened or of special concern, estimated habitats of rare wildlife and certified vernal pools, and priority habitats of rare species from the proposed activities;~~
- ~~(12) Institute interim and permanent stabilization measures, which shall be instituted on a disturbed area as soon as practicable but no more than 14 days after construction activity has temporarily or permanently ceased on that portion of the site;~~
- ~~(13) Properly manage on-site construction and waste materials; and~~
- ~~(14) Prevent off-site vehicle tracking of sediments.~~

C. Unless waived by the Planning Board, plans must be stamped and certified by a qualified professional engineer registered in Massachusetts or a certified professional in erosion and sediment control. ~~Erosion and sedimentation control plan content.~~

- ~~(1) The Plan shall contain the following information:~~
 - ~~(a) Names, addresses, and telephone numbers of the owner, applicant, and person(s) or firm(s) preparing the plan;~~
 - ~~(b) Title, date, North arrow, names of abutters, scale, legend, and locus map;~~
 - ~~(c) Location and description of natural features, including:
 - ~~[1] Watercourses and water bodies, wetland resource areas and all floodplain information, including the one hundred year flood elevation based upon the most recent Flood Insurance Rate Map, or as calculated by a professional engineer for areas not assessed on these maps;~~
 - ~~[2] Existing vegetation, including tree lines, canopy layer, shrub layer, and ground cover, and trees with a caliper 12 inches or larger, noting specimen trees and forest communities; and~~
 - ~~[3] Habitats mapped by the Massachusetts Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program as endangered, threatened or of special concern, estimated habitats of rare wildlife and certified vernal pools, and priority habitats of rare species within 500 feet of any construction activity.~~~~
 - ~~(d) Lines of existing abutting streets showing drainage and driveway locations and curb cuts;~~
 - ~~(e) Existing soils, volume and nature of imported soil materials;~~
 - ~~(f) Topographical features, including existing and proposed contours at intervals no greater than two feet with spot elevations provided when needed;~~
 - ~~(g) Surveyed property lines showing distances and monument locations, all existing and proposed easements, rights-of-way, and other encumbrances, the size of the~~

~~entire parcel, and the delineation and number of square feet of the land area to be disturbed;~~

- ~~(h) Drainage patterns and approximate slopes anticipated after major grading activities (construction phase grading plans);~~
- ~~(i) Location and details of erosion and sediment control measures with a narrative of the construction sequence/phasing of the project, including both operation and maintenance for structural and nonstructural measures, interim grading, and material stockpiling areas;~~
- ~~(j) Path and mechanism to divert uncontaminated water around disturbed areas, to the maximum extent practicable;~~
- ~~(k) Location and description of industrial discharges, including discharges from dedicated asphalt plants and dedicated concrete plants, which are covered by this permit;~~
- ~~(l) Runoff calculations in accordance with the Department of Environmental Protection's Management Policy;~~
- ~~(m) Location and description of and implementation schedule for temporary and permanent seeding, vegetative controls, and other stabilization measures;~~
- ~~(n) A description of construction and waste materials expected to be stored onsite. The plan shall include a description of controls to reduce pollutants from these materials, including storage practices to minimize exposure of the materials to weather and persons, and spill prevention and response;~~
- ~~(o) A description of provisions for phasing the project where one acre of area or greater is to be altered or disturbed;~~
- ~~(p) Unless waived by the Planning Board, plans must be stamped and certified by a qualified professional engineer registered in Massachusetts or a certified professional in erosion and sediment control; and~~
- ~~(q) Such other information as is required by the Planning Board.~~

D. ~~(2)~~ The Planning Board shall have the authority to waive one or more of the above requirements when it deems it to be in the best interest of the Town to do so based on the scale, nature and location of the proposed activity and upon a finding that the intent of this section is still achieved.

§ 110-8. Inspection and site supervision.

- A. Pre-construction meeting. Prior to starting clearing, excavation, construction, or land-disturbing activity, the applicant, the applicant's technical representative, the general contractor or any other person with authority to make changes to the project shall meet with the Planning Board, or its designated agent, to review the permitted plans and their implementation, the requirements of this chapter and the schedule of required inspections.
- B. Board inspection.

- (1) The Planning Board, or its designated agent, shall make inspections as hereinafter required and shall either approve that portion of the work completed or shall notify the permittee wherein the work fails to comply with the land disturbance permit as approved. The permit and associated plans for grading, stripping, excavating, and filling work, bearing the signature of approval of the Planning Board, shall be maintained at the site at all times during the progress of the work. In order to obtain inspections, the permittee shall notify the Planning Board or its designated agent and request an inspection at least two working days before each of the following events:

- (a) Erosion and sediment control measures are in place and stabilized;
- (b) Site clearing has been substantially completed;
- (c) Rough grading has been substantially completed;
- (d) Stormwater management system excavation has been substantially completed;**
- (e) Stormwater management system installation has been substantially completed;**
- (f) ~~(d)~~ Final grading has been substantially completed;
- (g) ~~(e)~~ Close of the construction season; and
- (h) ~~(f)~~ Final landscaping (permanent stabilization) and project final completion.

(2) The Planning Board will make every effort to complete the required inspections as soon as possible following a request. Also, based on the scale, nature and location of the permitted activity, the Planning Board may combine or reduce the number of inspections required as it may deem appropriate.

- C. Permittee inspections. The permittee or his/her agent shall conduct and document inspections of all control measures no less than weekly or as specified in the permit, and prior to and following anticipated storm events. The purpose of such inspections will be to determine the overall effectiveness of the control plan, and the need for maintenance or additional control measures. The permittee or his/her agent shall submit monthly reports of such inspections to the Planning Board or its designated agent in a format approved by the Planning Board.
- D. Access permission. To the fullest extent permitted by state law, or if authorized by the owner or other party in control of the property, the Planning Board, its agents, officers, and employees may enter upon privately owned property for the purpose of performing their duties under this chapter and may make or cause to be made such examinations, surveys or sampling as the Planning Board deems reasonably necessary to determine compliance with the permit.

§ 110-9. Surety.

Prior to the start of land disturbance activity, the Planning Board may require the permittee to post a surety bond, irrevocable letter of credit, cash, or other acceptable form of performance security. The form of the security shall be approved by Town Counsel, and shall be in an amount deemed sufficient by the Planning Board to ensure that the work will be completed in accordance with the permit. If the project is phased, the Planning Board may release part of the security as each phase is completed in compliance with the permit, but the security shall not be fully released until the Planning Board has received the final report as required by § 110-10 and issued a certificate of completion.

§ 110-11. Enforcement; violations and penalties.

- A. The Building Inspector or an authorized agent of the Planning Board shall enforce this chapter, any regulations, orders, violation notices, and enforcement orders issued pursuant hereto, and may pursue all civil and criminal remedies for such violations.
- B. Orders.

- (1) The Building Inspector or an authorized agent of the Board may issue a written order to enforce the provisions of this chapter or the regulations hereunder, which may include an order:
 - (a) To cease and desist from the land-disturbing activity until compliance with this chapter and provisions of the land-disturbance permit has been confirmed.
 - (b) For maintenance, installation or performance of additional erosion and sediment control measures.
 - (c) For monitoring, analyses, and reporting.
 - (d) For remediation of erosion and sedimentation resulting directly or indirectly from the land- disturbing activity.
 - (2) If the enforcing person determines that abatement or remediation of erosion and sedimentation is required, the order shall set forth a deadline by which such abatement or remediation must be completed. Said order shall further advise that, in the event the violator or property owner fails to promptly abate or perform remediation within the specified deadline, the Town may, at its option, undertake such work as may be necessary to abate or remediate such violation, and the property owner shall reimburse the Town's expenses.
 - (3) Within 30 days after the Town's completion of all measures necessary to abate the violation or to perform remediation, the violator and the property owner shall be notified of the costs incurred by the Town, including administrative costs in furtherance of such abatement and remediation. The violator or property owner may file a written protest objecting to the amount or basis of such costs with the Planning Board within 30 days of receipt of the notification of the costs incurred. If the amount due is not received by the expiration of the time in which to file a protest or within 30 days following a decision of the Planning Board affirming or reducing the costs, or from a final decision of a court of competent jurisdiction confirming such costs, the costs shall become a special assessment against the property owner and shall constitute a lien on the owner's property for the amount of said costs pursuant to the provisions of MGL c. 40, § 57, Interest shall begin to accrue on any unpaid costs at the statutory rate, as provided in MGL c. 59, § 57, after the 31st day following the day on which the costs became due.
- C. Criminal penalty. Any person who violates any provision of this chapter, regulation, order or permit issued thereunder shall be punished by a fine of not more than \$200. Each day or part thereof that such violation occurs or continues unabated shall constitute a separate offense for the purposes of this section.
- D. Noncriminal disposition. As an alternative to criminal prosecution or civil action, the Town may elect to utilize the noncriminal disposition procedure set forth in MGL c. 40, § 21D, and Article VII, § 5-49 of the Code of the Town of Blackstone, in which case the ~~Director~~ **Superintendent** of Public Works (for violations pertaining to illicit discharges) or Building Inspector or the designated agent of the Planning Board (for violations pertaining to land disturbance activities) shall be the enforcing person. The penalty for the first violation shall be \$50. The penalty for the second violation shall be \$100. The penalty for the third and each subsequent violation shall be \$200. Each day or part thereof that such violation occurs or continues shall constitute a separate offense.

- E. Appeals. The decisions or orders of the Planning Board shall be appealable to the Board of Appeals. Such appeals shall be filed within 30 days of the decision or order. Further relief shall be to a court of competent jurisdiction.
- F. Remedies not exclusive. The remedies listed in this chapter are not exclusive of any other remedies available under any applicable federal, state or local law.

§ 110-12. Certificate of completion.

The Planning Board or its designated agent shall issue a letter certifying completion upon receipt and approval of the final reports and/or upon otherwise determining that all work of the permit has been satisfactorily completed in conformance with this chapter.

§ 110-13. Severability.

If any provision, paragraph, sentence, or clause of this chapter shall be held invalid or unenforceable for any reason, all other provisions shall continue in full force and effect.

or take any other action in relation thereto.

(Submitted by the Public Works Director)
2/3rds Vote Required

Article Summary:

This Article would modify the Town's bylaw to update the Stormwater Management and Land Disturbance Bylaw.

ARTICLE 18. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, or borrow the sum of \$100,000.00 for two police vehicles and any other related costs, or take any other action in relation thereto.

(Submitted by the Police Chief)
Majority Vote Required (2/3rds Vote Required for Borrowing)

Article Summary:

This Article would provide funding for two new police vehicles. There is a need to decommission several vehicles within the department due to the difficulty to maintain and could potentially jeopardize public safety if use continues.

ARTICLE 19. To see if the Town will vote to amend Section 123-2, Administration and enforcement; site plan review; violations and penalties., Subsection C. (2), of the Zoning Bylaw by changing the number "45" to "65", referring to the number of days within which the Planning Board must make a decision on an application for site plan review, or take any other action in relation thereto.

(Submitted by the Planning Board)
2/3rds Vote Required

Article Summary:

This Article would amend the Zoning Bylaw to allow more time for a Planning Board decision on an application for site plan review since 45 days could result in a single meeting during that time period whereas 65 days assures that 2 regular meetings would fit within that time period.

ARTICLE 20. To see if the Town will vote to set an expenditure limit for the Library Revolving Fund set forth in § 5-33.1 of the General Bylaws and in accordance with M.G.L. c. 44, §53E½ up to the maximum amount of \$3,000.00 during FY2026, or take any other action in relation thereto.

(Submitted by the Library Trustees)
Majority Vote Required

Article Summary:

The Town has established a Library Revolving Fund for receipts from the use of Library copiers, printers, and facsimile machines. Section 53E½ requires Town Meeting to vote on the limit on the total amount that may be spent from the revolving fund.

ARTICLE 21. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds the sum of \$4,000.00 for the purpose of webpage creation and migration and any related work, at the Blackstone Public Library, or take any other action in relation thereto.

(Submitted by the Library Trustees)
Majority Vote Required

Article Summary:

This Article would provide funding for the Library to create a new webpage and migrate information from the current site. The current webpage host has notified the Library that they will no longer be in service so a new vendor is needed.

ARTICLE 22. To see if the Town will vote to accept the provisions of M.G.L. c. 44, § 54(b) to allow Town trust funds to be invested in accordance with M.G.L. c. 203C, the “Massachusetts Prudent Investor Act”, or take any other action in relation thereto.

(Submitted by the Collector/Treasurer)
Majority Vote Required

Article Summary:

The FY2024 State Budget amended the Trust Fund law to add a local option change to the standards for the investment of trust funds in municipalities. Amended M.G.L. c. 44, § 54 now includes a local acceptance provision that allows investment in accordance with the “Massachusetts Prudent Investor Act” (M.G.L. c. 203C), which allows for a broader range of investments, than are otherwise allowed under the trust fund law, which are limited.

ARTICLE 23. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, or borrow the sum of \$40,185.00 for an upgrade to the fire alarm signal box located in the fire department dispatch center, or take any other action in relation thereto.

(Submitted by the Fire Chief)
Majority Vote Required (2/3rds Vote Required for Borrowing)

Article Summary:

This Article would provide funding to upgrade the fire alarm receiving system in the Fire Department Dispatch Center.

ARTICLE 24. To see if the Town will vote to amend §93-2 of the Town's General Bylaws, Fingerprint-Based Criminal Background Checks, by deleting the following text in strikethrough, as follows:

“§ 93-2 Applicant's submission to fingerprinting by the Police Department.
Any applicant for a license to engage in any of the following occupational activities within the Town shall submit a full set of fingerprints taken by the Blackstone Police Department within 10 days of the date of the application for a license for the purpose of conducting a state and national criminal record background check to determine the suitability of the applicant for the license: manager of alcoholic beverage license, ~~hawker and peddler~~, owner or operator of public conveyance, dealer of secondhand articles, ice cream truck vendor. At the time of fingerprinting, the Police Department shall notify the individual fingerprinted that the fingerprints will be used to check the individual's FBI criminal history records.”, or take any other action in relation thereto.

(Submitted by the Board of Selectmen)
2/3rds Vote Required

Article Summary:

This Article would remove the requirement of a CORI check be performed when issuing both Annual and One-Time Mobile Food Establishment Permits for food trucks. The Commonwealth of Massachusetts performs a CORI check as a requirement for businesses seeking a Hawker and Peddler license; the Town's requirement of this is redundant.

ARTICLE 25. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, or transfer from available funds, or borrow pursuant to any applicable statute with the approval of the Board of Selectmen, the sum of \$200,000.00 for the purpose of design, purchase and installation of lighting at Roosevelt Park, and any other related work and/or improvements at Roosevelt Park, or take any other action in relation thereto.

(Submitted by the Board of Selectmen)
Majority Vote Required (2/3rds Vote Required for Borrowing)

Article Summary:

This Article would provide funding for the design services, purchase, and installation of lighting at Roosevelt Park and other related work. This field and park are the predominant location for the majority of the Town's events and is seeing increased usage. Any leftover funds from the completion of this project could be used for other necessary repairs and improvements in the park.

ARTICLE 26. To see if the Town will vote to accept M.G.L. c. 59, § 5, Clause 22J, which authorizes an annual increase in the amount of the exemption granted under M.G.L. c. 59, § 5, Clause 22, Clause 22A, Clause 22B, Clause 22C, Clause 22E and Clause 22F by 100% of the personal exemption amount, subject to the conditions in Clause 22J, to be effective for applicable exemptions granted for any fiscal year beginning on or after July 1, 2025.

(Submitted by the Board of Selectmen)
Majority Vote Required

Article Summary:

Clause 22J, if accepted, provides an additional exemption up to 100% of the amount of the tax exemption granted to veterans on their domiciles under Clause 22, Clause 22A, Clause 22B, Clause 22C, Clause 22E and Clause 22F. This would work like the optional additional exemption that is already a local option under G.L. c. 59, § 5C½ for all persons granted exemptions on their domiciles as veterans, seniors, blind persons, and surviving spouses. Clause 22J will not apply in a year in which the city or town already uses G.L. c. 59, § 5C½ to grant an additional exemption to all persons granted exemptions. It is an option for cities and towns that do not use that general additional exemption to be able to just grant one for persons granted veteran exemptions.

ARTICLE 27. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds a sum of money in the amount of \$250,000.00 as the Town's investment into the State Retiree Benefit Trust Fund ("SRBT Fund"), or take any other action in relation thereto.

(Submitted by the Board of Selectmen)
Majority Vote Required

Article Summary:

The State Retiree Benefit Trust Fund (SRBTF) is an investment vehicle established by Massachusetts law that enables government entities of the Commonwealth to invest funds set aside to fulfill other-post-employment-benefits (OPEB) for retirees such as healthcare or dental coverage in retirement.

ARTICLE 28. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, or transfer from available funds the sum of \$75,350.00 into the Other Post-Employment Benefits Liability Trust Fund (OPEB Fund) of the Blackstone-Millville Regional School District, established under Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 32B, Section 20, said funds to be used only to pay some portion of health benefits for retirees of the Blackstone-Millville Regional School District, or take any other action in relation thereto.

(Submitted by the Blackstone-Millville Regional School District)
Majority Vote Required

Article Summary:

This Article would appropriate funds to the Blackstone-Millville Regional School District OPEB Fund, which is separate from the Town's OPEB fund referenced in previous article.

ARTICLE 29. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, or transfer from available funds, the sum of \$52,745.00 to the Blackstone-Millville Regional School District for the purpose of designing, purchasing, and installing a playground at Frederick W. Hartnett Middle School in Blackstone, or take any other action in relation thereto.

(Submitted by the Blackstone-Millville Regional School District)
Majority Vote Required

Article Summary:

This Article would allow the Blackstone-Millville Regional School District to purchase design, purchase and install a playground at the Frederick W. Hartnett Middle School.

ARTICLE 30. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, or transfer from available funds, the sum of \$90,420.00 to the Blackstone-Millville Regional School District for the purchase of a plow/utility truck for use by the Blackstone-Millville Regional School District, or take any other action in relation thereto.

(Submitted by the Blackstone-Millville Regional School District)
Majority Vote Required

Article Summary:

This Article would allow the Blackstone-Millville Regional School District to purchase a plow/utility truck to replace the existing vehicle.

ARTICLE 31. To see if the Town will vote to transfer a sum of money to the stabilization fund, or take any other action in relation thereto.

(Submitted by the Board of Selectmen)
Majority Vote Required

Article Summary:

Stabilization funds are in the nature of rainy-day funds typically used for unforeseen or high-cost expenditures, because a two-thirds vote of Town Meeting is required to later transfer money out of such funds.

ARTICLE 32. To see if the Town will vote to amend Article 22 of the May 2021 Annual Town Meeting to allow the appropriated but unexpended balance of \$105,902.65 to be repurposed from the rehabilitation of the bridge carrying Elm St over Quickstream to the rehabilitation of the bridge/culvert on Elm St and any other related site work, or take any other action in relation thereto.

(Submitted by the Board of Selectmen)
Majority Vote Required (2/3rds Vote Required for Borrowing)

Article Summary:

This article would repurpose the remaining funds from Article 22 of the May 2021 Annual Town Meeting. The total remaining funds are \$105,902.65 and if approved would allow the remaining funds to be used for a different bridge/culvert on Elm Street.

ARTICLE 33. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to acquire, or otherwise confirm the Town's title, by gift, purchase, or eminent domain, the parcel of land off of Farm Street identified as Assessors Map 16, Parcel 61; and further to authorize the Board of Selectmen to convey an easement over said parcel to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts for the purpose of constructing a public bike path to be included in the Southern New England Trunkline Trail (SNETT), said easement to be approximately 30 feet in width and running the length of said parcel, or take any other action in relation thereto.

(Submitted by the Board of Selectmen)
Majority Vote Required (2/3rds Vote Required for Borrowing)

Article Summary:

This article would authorize the Board of Selectmen to acquire or otherwise confirm the Town's title a parcel of land on Farm Street and authorize the Board to convey an easement over the parcel to the Commonwealth for purposes of constructing a public bike path to be included in the Southern New England Trunkline Trail (SNETT).

ARTICLE 34. To see if the Town will vote, pursuant to M.G.L. c.71, §16G ½, to approve the establishment of a stabilization account for the Blackstone Valley Vocational Regional School District, consistent with the September 14, 2023 vote of the Blackstone Valley Vocational Regional School District Committee, and the member community of Hopedale, which action will provide additional flexibility with respect to future capital improvements, such account to be expended by a 2/3 vote of Regional School District Committee for any purpose for which regional school districts may borrow money or for such other district purpose as the Massachusetts Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education may approve; or take any action relative thereto.

(Submitted by the Superintendent of BVT School District)
Majority Vote Required

Article Summary:

This article seeks no fiscal appropriation. The creation of a stabilization account is consistent with standard account classification practices. It provides additional flexibility as encouraged by the Massachusetts Department of Revenue, the Regional District Treasurer, independent auditors, and the Massachusetts Association of Regional Schools organization. The establishment of a stabilization account is a common practice across the Commonwealth's regional school systems. Appropriations into a stabilization fund serve as a form of capital budgeting; the Regional District School Committee does not have the authority to increase or decrease the amount appropriated for the year in which its budget has been approved.

ARTICLE 35. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to transfer the properties recorded at the Worcester Registry of Deeds as Book 10482, Page 0376, containing 3.79 acres, more or less, and Book 9817, Page 0319 containing 31.00 acres, more or less, from the current municipal custodian to the parks and rec commission for conservation and passive recreation purposes. Furthermore, authorizing the respective governmental bodies to execute any agreements, instruments or take any action in relation thereto ensure protection under the provisions of Article 97 of the Massachusetts Constitution.

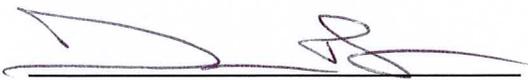
(Citizens Petition)
2/3rds Vote Required

Hereof, fail not and make do return of this Warrant with doings thereon, to the Town Clerk at or before the time of said meeting.

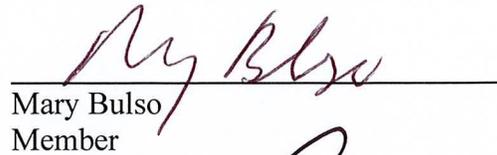
And you are directed to serve this warrant by posting up true and attested copies thereof in each of the following names and places in Blackstone fourteen (14) days at least before the day fixed for such meeting at the Municipal Center on St. Paul Street and at Fire Station #2, Rathbun Street and the A.F. Maloney School on 200 Lincoln Street and also by publication no less than fourteen (14) days before the day fixed for such meeting in that newspaper having the largest circulation in the Town .

Given under our hands this 6th day of May in the year of Our Lord, Two Thousand Twenty-five.

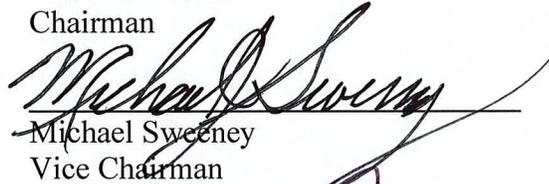
SELECTMEN OF BLACKSTONE



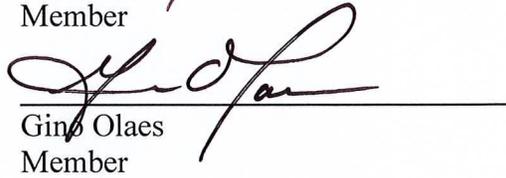
Daniel P. Keefe
Chairman



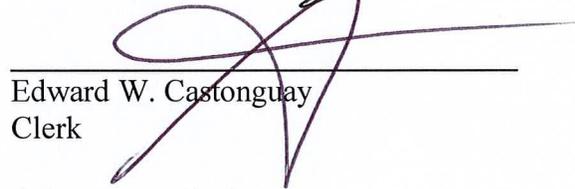
Mary Bulso
Member



Michael Sweeney
Vice Chairman



Gina Olaes
Member



Edward W. Castonguay
Clerk

A true copy attest:

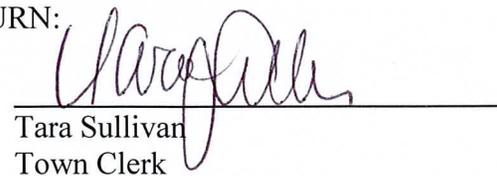

Constable of Blackstone

Worcester, SS:

Pursuant to the foregoing warrant, I have this 7th day of May 2025 notified the inhabitants of Precinct #1, Precinct #2 and Precinct #3 in the Town of Blackstone by posting up true and attested copies of the within warrant at the within named places and by publication as within directed.


Constable of Blackstone

A TRUE COPY OF THE WARRANT AND RETURN:


Tara Sullivan
Town Clerk