

Anyone Can Write a Warrant Article for Town Meeting

Requires signatures of 25 Andover voters

By Charlie Darling, Beacon staff

Traditionally, the Board of Selectmen writes the warrant articles for Town Meeting and we, the voters of Andover, flock to Town Meeting to discuss and ultimately vote on each article. The articles that we accept, including the total budget figure, pretty much control how the town is run for the coming year.

But it's not just the Board of Selectmen that can put an idea (in the form of a warrant article) before Town Meeting to be voted on. In fact, anyone can do it.

Of course, there are a few rules:

1) The warrant article must be delivered to the office of the Selectmen by the fifth Tuesday before Town Meeting. This year, that will be Tuesday, February 4.

2) The warrant article must be signed (legibly!) by at least 25 registered Andover voters. Each signature will be checked against the Town's checklist. If fewer than 25 of the signatures can be matched on the checklist, the article won't be added to the warrant.

3) According to NHRS 39:3, the Selectmen may make "only such minor textual changes as may be required," so the burden is on the writer of the warrant article to be sure it is worded

clearly and that it calls for an action that Town Meeting can legally take.

Any Other Business

If, for whatever reason, you can't meet all those criteria, you may still be able to put your issue in front of Town Meeting. The last article of the warrant is always "To transact any other business that may legally come before [Town Meeting]." That's your cue to be recognized by the moderator and put your issue before the voters.

But there's a catch: to be legally valid, any motion at Town Meeting must comply with NHRS 39:2, which requires that "The subject matter of all business to be acted upon at the town meeting shall be distinctly stated in the warrant, and nothing done at any meeting shall be valid unless the subject thereof is so stated."

So if your idea needs to be legally valid – if it expends money or changes an ordinance or something like that – then "any other business" is not the time to bring it up. Even if it were passed by the meeting, it wouldn't be legally valid because it would not meet the requirement of NHRS 39:2.

On the other hand, a motion that has no legal effect, such as honoring someone or expressing the meeting's support for an organization, works just fine as "any other business."

Run for Town Office in 2014!

It's time to think about who's going to fill all the positions in town government and in the school district to keep the wheels turning smoothly. The following is a run-down of what offices will be on the ballot in March and what the incumbents may be planning.

Town Officers

Town Moderator for two years: Dan Coolidge is the incumbent and intends to run.

Selectman for three years: Vicky Mishcon is the incumbent and does not intend to run.

Road Agent for two years: Jon Champagne, the incumbent, does not intend to run.

Supervisor of the Checklist for six years: Irene Jewett is the incumbent. She does not intend to run again.

Town Treasurer for two years: Incumbent Shirley Currier intends to run.

Budget Committee for three years (two positions): Incumbent Bill Bardley is undecided; incumbent Wendy Pinkham intends to run.

Library Trustee for three years: Marj Roy is the incumbent and does not intend to run again.

Trustee of Trust Funds for three years: Joanne Edgar is the incumbent and intends to run.

Cemetery Trustee for three years: Pat Cutter, incumbent, does not intend

to run again.

The Town paid positions up for election this year are:

Moderator: \$10 per hour

Selectman: \$1,500 per year

Road Agent: \$15 per hour

Supervisor of the Checklist: \$7.25 per hour

Treasurer: \$3,000 per year

School District Officers

School Board for three years: Kent Armstrong, the incumbent, intends to run again.

Moderator for one year: Betsy Paine, the incumbent, intends to run.

Clerk for one year: Christie Coll is the incumbent and intends to run again.

Treasurer for one year: Incumbent Shirley Currier intends to run again.

The School District paid positions up for election this year are:

School Board: \$100 per year

Moderator: \$60 per annual meeting

Clerk: \$13.83 per hour

Treasurer: \$1,000 per year

How To File

Filing to run for office is very easy. There is no filing fee for any position.

The filing period for these positions began on Wednesday, January 22, and ends on Friday, January 31. The filing form can be obtained at the Town Clerk's office in Town Hall during her normal business hours.



HAPPY GROUNDHOG DAY!

STACEY VIANDIER
Coldwell Banker Milestone Real Estate
526-4116 • www.CBMilestone.com




Jay C. Boynton
Attorney at Law

Continuing to provide personalized legal service to individuals, families, businesses, non-profit organizations and municipalities with attention to detail, willingness to listen and the promise of absolute confidentiality for over 38 years. Now considering new matters by appointment at

164 Main Street, PO Box 395
Andover, NH 03216-0395
603-735-5554
boyntonlawoffice@tds.net



TOWN of ANDOVER

Filing Period for Andover Town & School District Officers

Jan 22 to Jan 31

File at Town Clerk's office
Mon & Wed, 9 - 2
Tue & Thur, 1:30 - 6:30

PO Box 61 • Andover NH 03216 • 603 735-5332



Granny Judy's Kitchen, LLC

BREAKFAST SERVED ALL DAY

To our many guests and friends,

Granny Judy's Kitchen thanks all who contributed to the 2013 Christmas Stocking fund raiser, helping us raise \$994 for the local Food Pantry. To show our appreciation, we have created a Frequent Diner Soup card to complement our Frequent User coffee card. PS. Remember that midweek we DOUBLE PUNCH our cards - Soup cards during Lunch on Monday and Thursday, coffee cards during Breakfast on Wednesday and Friday.

Look forward to seeing you this winter... the Staff at Granny Judy's Kitchen

Every Friday
Fresh Breaded Fried Haddock • \$9.95

Enjoy Spacious Sunday Seating In Our Expanded Dining Room

Open Daily 6:30 AM to 2:30 PM
Sunday 6:30 AM to 1:30 PM
Closed Tuesdays

71 North Main Street
Franklin, NH 03235
Telephone: (603) 934-4404