

**TOWN OF EASTON  
TOWN MEETING WARRANT  
MARCH 9, 2021**

To the inhabitants of the Town of Easton, in the County of Grafton, in the State of New Hampshire qualified to vote in Town affairs: You are hereby notified and warned of the Annual Town Election to be held at the Town Hall in said Town on Tuesday, March 9, 2021. Polls will open from 3:00 PM to 6:00 PM for voting on Articles 1-2. **The Town's Annual Business Meeting/Deliberative Session, originally scheduled for March 9, 2021 at 7 PM, will be postponed to Saturday, June 19, 2021, at 4 PM for deliberation and voting on Articles 3-19.**

**ARTICLE 1. Elect All Officers**

To choose all necessary officers for the ensuing year, on the Official Ballot. (Ballot Vote)

**ARTICLE 2. To see if the Town is in favor of the adoption of the Amendment to the existing Easton Zoning Ordinance as proposed by the Planning Board:**

The proposed amendment would make changes regarding Telecommunications Facilities throughout the Zoning Ordinance as follows:

In ARTICLE 3 DEFINITIONS, the term "Abandoned", "Tower," and "Tower Height" and their definitions would be removed. "Conditional Use" and "Telecommunications Facility" would be added along with their definitions.

In ARTICLE 6 FUTURE USES, Telecommunications Facility would be removed from Section 602.2 Special Exceptions and a new Section 602.3 would be added requiring a Conditional Use Permit from the Planning Board for Telecommunications Facilities.

In ARTICLE 7 AREA REGULATION, Telecommunications Facilities would be exempt from the 35-foot height limit in Section 705.

In ARTICLE 8 GENERAL REGULATIONS, the text of Section 809 Telecommunications Facilities would be replaced in its entirety to provide the procedures and requirements for obtaining a Conditional Use Permit for a Telecommunications Facility from the Planning Board, along with the necessary definitions and subsequent requirements such as bonding and inspections.

(The Planning Board recommends adoption of this Article) (Ballot vote)

**ARTICLE 3. Town Operating Budget**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$243,085 for general Town operation as follows:

Executive	\$ 14,700.00
Election Registration, Town Clerk & Vital Stats	12,000.00
Financial Administration	15,000.00

Revaluation of Individual Properties	6,000.00
Legal Expenses	10,000.00
Personnel Administration & Payroll Taxes	2,000.00
Planning & Zoning	7,000.00
Government Buildings	13,700.00
Cemetery	2,100.00
Insurance	2,981.00
Advertising & Regional Associations	1,620.00
General Government – Contingency	2,500.00
Police Department	0.00
Ambulances	11,500.00
Fire Department	21,050.00
Building Inspections	1,500.00
Emergency Management – Forest Fire	151.00
Public Safety – Other (Including Communications)	1,500.00
Highways and Streets	55,000.00
Sanitation – Solid Waste	30,208.00
Animal & Pest Control	300.00
Welfare Assistance	2,000.00
Parks and Recreation	18,475.00
Library	0.00
Patriotic Purposes	100.00
Conservation Commission	1,200.00
Construction Bonds – Principal	8,500.00
Construction Bonds – Interest	<u>2,000.00</u>
Total Operating Budget	\$243,085.00

**ARTICLE 4. Budget for Health Agencies & Hospitals**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$2,011 for Health Agencies & Hospitals as follows: (The Selectmen recommend adoption of this Warrant Article.) (Majority vote required.)

Ammonoosuc Community Health Services	\$ 500.00
North Country Home Health & Hospice	800.00
CASA	500.00
White Mountain Mental Health	<u>211.00</u>
Total Health Agencies & Hospitals	\$2,011.00

**ARTICLE 5. Budget for Other Welfare**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$2,700 for Other Welfare as follows: (The Selectmen recommend adoption of this Warrant Article.) (Majority vote required.)

American Red Cross	\$ 100.00
Center for New Beginnings	250.00
Grafton County Senior Citizens Council	200.00
Tri-County Community Action Program	<u>2,150.00</u>
Total Other Welfare	\$2,700.00

**ARTICLE 6. Budget for Other Culture & Recreation**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,000 for Other Culture & Recreation: (The Selectmen recommend adoption of this Warrant Article.) (Majority vote required.)

North Country Boys & Girls Club	<u>\$1,000.00</u>
Total Other Culture & Recreation	\$1,000.00

**ARTICLE 7. Fee for Franconia Library**

To see if the Town will vote to accept a special discounted patron rate of \$10 per Easton resident at the Abbie Greenleaf Library in Franconia, and to raise and appropriate the sum of \$500 for payment to such library for this purpose; of this amount the entirety is to be raised from general taxation. (The Selectmen recommend adoption of this Warrant Article.) (Majority vote required.)

**ARTICLE 8. Fire Department Vehicle and Apparatus Capital Equipment Reserve Fund**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$10,000.00 to add to the Easton Fire Department Vehicle and Apparatus Capital Reserve Fund (established in March 1997); of this amount the entirety to come from the December 31, 2020 Unassigned Fund Balance. (The Selectmen recommend adoption of this Warrant Article.) (Majority vote required.)

**ARTICLE 9. Fire Department Equipment Expendable Trust Fund**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$5,000 to add to the Easton Fire Department Equipment Expendable Trust Fund; of this amount the entirety is to come from the December 31, 2020 Fund Balance. (The Selectmen recommend adoption of this Warrant Article.) (Majority vote required.)

**ARTICLE 10. Expendable Trust Fund for the Maintenance and Repair of Government Buildings**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$5,000 to add to the Expendable Trust Fund for the Maintenance and Repair of Government Buildings; of this amount the entirety is to be raised from general taxation. (The Selectmen recommend adoption of this Warrant Article.) (Majority vote required.)

**ARTICLE 11. Town Cemetery Expendable Trust Fund**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,000 to add to the Town Cemetery Expendable Trust Fund; of this amount the entirety is to be raised from general taxation. (The Selectmen recommend adoption of this Warrant Article.) (Majority vote required.)

**ARTICLE 12. Town Roads Maintenance Expendable Trust Fund**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$5,000 to add to the Town Roads Maintenance Expendable Trust Fund; of this amount the entirety is to be raised from general taxation. (The Selectmen recommend adoption of this Warrant Article.) (Majority vote required.)

**ARTICLE 13. Forest Fire Reimbursement Expendable Trust Fund**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$5,000 to add to the Forest Fire Reimbursement Expendable Trust Fund; of this amount the entirety is to be raised from general taxation. (The Selectmen recommend adoption of this Warrant Article.) (Majority vote required.)

**ARTICLE 14. Legal Fees Expendable Trust Fund**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$15,000 to add to the Legal Fees Expendable Trust Fund; of this amount the entirety is to be raised from the Unassigned Fund Balance as of December 31, 2020. (The Selectmen recommend adoption of this Warrant Article.) (Majority vote required.)

**ARTICLE 15. Conservation Capital Reserve Trust Fund**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,000 to be added to the Conservation Capital Reserve Trust Fund: of this amount \$500 to come from the December 31, 2020 Unassigned Fund Balance with the remaining balance of \$500 to be raised from general taxation. (The Selectmen recommend adoption of this Warrant Article.) (Majority vote required.)

**ARTICLE 16. Communications District Planning Committee**

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to participate in a communications district planning committee under RSA Chapter 53-G to study the potential formation of a communications district with one or more other towns in the region for the purpose of facilitating the provision of fiber optic internet service to residents and businesses that will be needed for future growth in the region. The planning committee would consist of at least two people appointed by the Select Board from each participating town. A future town meeting vote would be required to formally create a communications district or to enter into contracts with any supplier. (The Selectmen recommend adoption of this Warrant Article.) (Majority vote required.)

**ARTICLE 17. PETITIONED – Resolution for Fair Redistricting**

By petition of 10 (or more) eligible voters of the Town of Easton to see if the Town will vote to urge that the New Hampshire General Court, which is obligated to redraw the maps of political districts within the state following the federal census, will ensure fair and effective representation of New Hampshire voters without gerrymandering.

Additionally, these voters ask the Town of Easton to urge the NH General Court to carry out the redistricting in a fair and transparent way through public meetings, not to favor a particular political party, to include communities of interest, and to minimize multi-seat districts.

The record of the vote approving this article shall be transmitted by written notice from the Selectmen to Easton’s state legislators, informing them of the demands from their constituents within 30 days of the vote. (Majority vote required.)

**ARTICLE 18. PETITIONED – Resolution endorsing the declaration of a climate emergency and emergency mobilization effort to restore a safe climate**

WHEREAS, In April 2016 world leaders recognized the urgent need to combat climate change it by signing the Paris Agreement, agreeing to keep global warming “well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels” and to “pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5°C;”

WHEREAS, the death and destruction already wrought by current average global warming of 1°C demonstrate that the Earth is already too hot for safety and justice, as attested by increased and intensifying wildfires, floods, rising seas, diseases, droughts and extreme weather;

WHEREAS, according to the United Nations' Special Rapporteur on Extreme Poverty, 1.5°C of global warming could expose 500 million people to water poverty, 36 million people to food insecurity because of lower crop yields, and 4.5 billion people to heat waves;

WHEREAS, in October 2018, the United Nations released a special report which projected that limiting warming to even the dangerous 1.5°C target this century will require an unprecedented transformation of every sector of the global economy by 2030;

WHEREAS, climate change and the global industrialized economy's overshoot of ecological limits are driving the Sixth Mass Extinction of species, could devastate much of life on Earth for many millennia, and may pose as great a risk to humanity as climate change, according to the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services;

WHEREAS, the United States of America has disproportionately contributed to the climate and ecological emergencies and thus bears an extraordinary responsibility to rapidly solve these crises;

WHEREAS, in July 2019, U.S. Senator Bernie Sanders, Representative Earl Blumenauer, and Representative Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez introduced a concurrent Congressional resolution to declare a national climate emergency in the United States, calling for a "national, social, industrial, and economic mobilization of the resources and labor of the United States at a massive scale to halt, reverse, mitigate, and prepare for the consequences of the climate emergency and to restore the climate for future generations;"

WHEREAS, restoring a safe and stable climate requires a Climate Mobilization, an emergency mobilization on a scale not seen since World War II in order to reach zero greenhouse gas emissions across all sectors of the economy; to rapidly and safely drawdown and remove all the excess carbon from the atmosphere at emergency speed and until safe pre-industrial climate conditions are restored; and to implement measures to protect all people and species from the consequences of abrupt climate breakdown;

WHEREAS, such necessary measures to restore a safe climate include:

1. A rapid, just, managed phase-out of fossil fuels;
2. Ending greenhouse gas emissions as quickly as possible to establish a zero-emissions economy;
3. A widespread effort to safely drawdown excess carbon from the atmosphere;
4. A full transition to a regenerative agriculture system; and
5. An end to the Sixth Mass Extinction through widespread conservation and restoration of ecosystems;

WHEREAS, justice requires that frontline and marginalized communities, which have historically borne the brunt of the extractive fossil-fuel economy, participate actively in the planning and implementation of this mobilization effort and that they benefit first from a transition to a climate-safe economy;

WHEREAS, the massive scope and scale of action necessary to stabilize the climate and biosphere will require unprecedented levels of public awareness, engagement, and deliberation to develop and implement effective, just, and equitable policies to address the climate emergency;

WHEREAS, Easton, New Hampshire can act as a global leader through advocating for regional, national, and international efforts necessary to reverse global warming and the ecological crisis;

NOW BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, Easton, New Hampshire declares that a climate and ecological emergency threatens our city, region, state, nation, civilization, humanity and the natural world;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, Easton, New Hampshire joins a national-wide call for a regional, national, and international climate emergency mobilization effort focused on rapidly catalyzing a mobilization at all levels of government to reverse global warming and the ecological crisis;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that by the adoption of this Resolution, Easton, New Hampshire hereby supports H.Con.Res.52 and S.Con.Res.22, “Expressing the sense of Congress that there is a climate emergency which demands a massive-scale mobilization to halt, reverse, and address its consequences and causes,” as well as any legislation that would initiate a national emergency-speed mobilization to reverse global warming and the ecological crisis, as described in the text of this Resolution;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, Easton calls on the State of New Hampshire, the United States Congress, the President of the United States, and all governments and people worldwide to declare a climate emergency, initiate a Climate Mobilization to reverse global warming and the ecological crisis, and provide maximum protection for all people and species of the world; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, in furtherance of this resolution, Easton shall submit a certified copy of this resolution to the Executive Council, Governor Sununu, Senator Shaheen and President Biden and request that all relevant support and assistance in effectuating this resolution be provided.

<https://cleoinstitute.org/>

wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Climate-Emergency-Declaration.docx.pdf

(Majority vote required.)

**ARTICLE 19. To act upon any other business that may legally come before the Meeting**

To act upon any other business that may legally come before this Meeting.