# Canton's Annual Town Meeting kicks off Monday, May 12

(continued from page 1) The total cost for this phase is estimated at \$4.7 million, and an additional significant request is

expected at a special town meeting this coming fall. The library also plans to draw from other funding sources, including \$450,000 previously allocated to the repair of the library's roof and HVAC system after that project was finished under

Besides the library appropriation recommended in Article 13, Motion 4, town meeting voters will also be asked to approve reserve fund transfers to supplement the town's road repair program (\$168,000); fund the town's annual July 4th celebration (\$50,000); fund the construction of six pickleball courts at Pequitside Farm (\$650,000); ensure the codification of updated town bylaws (\$20,000); and update the action plan section of the town's 2020 Master Plan (\$15,000).

Also on the spending side are a series of proposed capital improvements outlined in Article 13, including a mix of short-term "cash capital" items and larger projects funded through long-term debt. On the municipal side, recommended capital items include replacement vehicles for various departments; ambulances and a fire engine for the Canton Fire Department; Tilden Field renovations; a lactation/nursing pod for the library; an office for the new director of the Revere Museum of Innovation and Discovery; and replacement of the HVAC system for the Senior Center.

On the school side, capital items include new unit ventilators and asphalt improvements at the JFK Elementary School; Chromebook replacements, new lighting and a new scoreboard at Canton High's Memorial Field; a traffic redesign plan for the CHS lower campus; and musical instrument replacements, including a new digital pit piano for the CHS orchestra.

Also on the spending side are a series of Community Preservation Act (CPA) funding awards for various "shovel-ready" projects. CPA funds are generated by a 1 percent surcharge on property tax bills, matched at a certain percentage by the state, and for FY26 the town's Community Preservation Committee has recommended funding for eight new projects, including: a site assessment and gravestone restoration/repair work at Canton Corner Cemetery (\$295K); establishment of an

replacement of two boats, two Affordable Housing Production Fund (\$255K); construction of a new pavilion at the Revere Heritage Site (\$200K); repair of the original 1902 portion of the Canton Public Library (\$200K); restoration of the Ponkapoag Schoolhouse bell tower and façade (\$123K); an updated Open Space & Recreation Plan (\$100K); phase 3 of a window replacement project at the Hemenway Housing complex (\$90K); and a building study of the Canton Historical Society headquarters (\$40K).

### Move the Vote initiative

On the non-spending side of the town meeting warrant, Article 27 marks the next phase in the grassroots effort to move Canton's local elections from April to November so that they coincide with state and federal elections. The proposal was widely supported by voters via a nonbinding ballot question at last month's annual town election, and the ATM vote would authorize the Select Board to seek approval through a home rule petition in the state legislature.

Proposed by a group called Canton Residents to Move the Vote, the scheduling change is designed to increase voter turnout while engaging more residents in the political process, and the FinCom has supported the

measure by a vote of 5-1.

Critics, however, point out that the change would be unprecedented under current state law, Massachusetts towns must hold local elections between February and June. (The law does not apply to city elections.) The proposal therefore would require buy-in from a legislative sponsor and ultimately the full Mass. House and Senate — support that failed to materialize when a similar proposal was approved at town meeting more than a decade ago.

The town clerk's office has also expressed concerns, noting that Canton would have to hold dual elections in even-numbered years, which would be costlier and more burdensome for the town's poll workers. Supporters, however, have pledged to work with the town clerk's office to alleviate some of those challenges and have inserted a provision stipulating that the change would take effect in a non-presidential election year to ensure a smoother transition.

Additional information on the proposal can be found at movethevote. info. Voters can also read the full text of Town Clerk Tracy Kenney's statement of opposition at town. canton.ma.us/1083/2025-AnnualTown-Meeting.

### **Canton Center in focus**

Of the eight zoning changes on this year's town warrant, all but one of them are related to the series of recommendations made by the Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC) in its 2023 report on Downtown Canton. Crafted with community input, the report identifies ways to improve and beautify what is now known as the Central Business District following passage of a zoning measure at last year's town meeting.

This year, there is a proposal to remove the overlay zone known as the Canton Center Economic Opportunity District (CCEOD), as it is no longer needed with the creation of the Central Business District. Additionally, Article 35 would expand the district to include what is now part of CCEOD Area B, which runs along Washington Street from Sherman Street to roughly Pequit Street.

Other related proposals on the warrant include Article 31, which would add a "Mixed-Use" section to the zoning bylaw; Article 32, which would amend the design review process for Canton Center, adding a significant number of stricter standards for areas such as building

design, façade elements, signage and parking; and Article 33, which would add a height exception for the Central Business District, allowing new buildings to be up to four stories if certain conditions are met.

Other articles of note at this year's town meeting include:

\* Article 21, which would authorize the Select Board to seek Priority Development Site status for 30 Dan Road, allowing for expedited permitting to encourage redevelopment of the property.

\* Article 28, which would amend the zoning bylaw regarding the Flood Plain Overlay District to reflect changes in Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) regulations. The changes are required to allow Canton property owners to continue participating in the FEMAsupported National Flood Insurance Program.

Articles 24-26, which proposes the acceptance of Stillwater Road, Foundry Lane and Dalebrook Court as public ways. The Planning Board issued a negative recommendation for each of these articles due to a few outstanding issues but said they would be open to changing their opinion if the developer addresses those issues prior to town meeting.

## Library renovations will help meet changing needs of our community

*Friends of the Library* 

My dad took me to the Canton Library's Junior Room in 1970 to receive my very first library card. I can still remember the card number — "J 890" — and the thrill of checking out and taking home my first books. Little did I know that moment would evolve into a 55-plus-year relationship with books as well as our library.

Throughout my 12 years in the Canton schools, the library was a place to read for recreation, research school papers, and get some homework done. There were three of us brothers sharing a bedroom in those days, and a quiet study space was hard to come by in a busy household of six people. These were the days of card catalogs and encyclopedias.

established a career. Several years later, I married a very nice woman who happened to be a career librarian here in Canton. As a result, I also ended up somewhat married to the library. Through Lisa, I have had a front row seat for the library's evolution over the last 30 years, such as computerizing all of the card catalog data as well as the major renovation in 2003.

At the time it was recognized that the footprint being created then would need to have the ability to adapt for future needs. The community's use of the library has been evolving ever since it opened in the 1900s. From time to time our community needs to do the necessary repairs to

By Bill Quinn, President of the the building, adjust the library and grounds to meet current needs, and anticipate as much as possible for future generations. Now it is such

> Canton is rightly proud of our decades of achievement in athletics and can be proud of our sons and daughters who learned so many life skills on the playing field. However, for those of us not so athletically minded, the library provides opportunities to develop social skills and study habits that are also building blocks for the future. The library provides a safe place for our young adults after school and on Saturdays with dedicated personnel and programming.

The interior changes that are being proposed will provide dedicated Suffice it to say I graduated from space for our young adults to both high school, then college and later socialize and study while allowing the rest of the library community (including our wonderful seniors) to enjoy other parts of the building. We will also be able to continue our very popular Everyday Book Sale, which allows us to raise money for library programming from the donated books from our community. The exterior renovations under consideration will give the entire community more useable outdoor space as well as establishing additional programming space for all ages.

Lisa and I have been "all in" as it relates to supporting the library and its renovations plans. Although having officially retired from the library in 2021 after over 40 years of service, Lisa remains involved as a

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page, a substitute librarian, and as an active member of the Friends of the Library. Upon my retirement from a financial service firm in 2019, I have been a very active member of the Friends and am now wrapping up my second year as the group's president. Understanding that libraries are evolving to become a place where the community gathers, the Friends have expanded their fundraising efforts to include Winter Comedy Night, the Spring 5K, Trivia Night, and the very popular Sip & Shop event.

In support of the efforts of the library trustees and library director to ensure our library meets the changing needs of the community, the Friends are working diligently with the trustees to help raise funds for the Next Chapter Capital Campaign. So far, together, including our very successful brick campaign we have raised over \$100,000 for this purpose. I would like to thank each of you who have already supported us in our fundraising. We have been truly overwhelmed by public support thus far, but we still have a bit further to go.

At the Annual Town Meeting on May 12, I hope we can count on your 'yes' votes for both the Canton Community Preservation Committee's allocation of \$200,000 to support the restoration of our historic rooms, as well as the \$2.16 million being requested for the envisioned interior renovations. Should you have any questions for the Friends, please email us at friendsofthecantonlibrary@gmail.

## **Legal Notices**

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court** 

**Probate and Family Court** Docket No. NO25P1074PM **CITATION GIVING** NOTICE OF PETITION FOR APPOINTMENT OF CONSERVATOR OR OTHER **PROTECTIVE ORDER** 

PURSUANT TO G.L. c. 190B, § 5-304 & § 5-405 Norfolk Probate and **Family Court** 35 Shawmut Road

**Canton, MA 02021** In the matter of: Paul G. English Of: Norwood, MA RESPONDENT

(Person to be Protected/Minor) To the named Respondent and all

other interested persons, a petition has been filed by James English of Needham, MA and Joanne E. Desmarais of Stoughton, MA in the above captioned matter alleging that Paul G. English is in need of a Conservator or other protective order and requesting that Shannon Delaney of Bellingham, MA (or some other suitable person) be appointed as Conservator to serve With Personal Surety on the bond.

The petition asks the court to determine that the Respondent is disabled, that a protective order or appointment of a Conservator is necessary, and that the proposed conservator is appropriate. The petition is on file with this court.

You have the right to object to this proceeding. If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance at this court on or before 10:00 A.M. on the return date of 06/04/2025. This day is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline date by which you have to file the written appearance if you object to the petition. If you fail to file the written appearance by the return date, action

may be taken in this matter without further notice to you. In addition to filing the written appearance, you or your attorney must file a written affidavit stating the specific facts and grounds of your objection within 30 days after the return date. IMPORTANT NOTICE

The outcome of this proceeding may limit or completely take away the above-named person's right to make decisions about personal affairs or financial affairs or both. The above-named person has the right to ask for a lawyer. Anyone may make this request on behalf of the above-named person. If the above-named person cannot afford a lawyer, one may be appointed at State expense.

WITNESS, Hon. Lee M. Peterson, First Justice of this Court.

Date: April 29, 2025

Colleen M. Brierley Register of Probate

### TOWN OF CANTON REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS MEDICAL STOP LOSS **COVERAGE**

The Town of Canton is requesting proposals for stop-loss coverage for the Town's two health insurance plans with Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts for the plan year July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026. Proposals should be emailed to the

at rscollins@town.canton.ma.us and marked "Town of Canton Stop Loss Reinsurance Proposals" in the subject line, and submitted to the Department of Finance no later than noon on Friday, June 6, 2025. Information and proposal documents may be obtained through the Finance Director's office by emailing Ellen Jones at ejones@ town.canton.ma.us or by contacting

Finance Director, William Scollins

the Finance Director's Office, 801 Washington Street, Canton, MA 02021. The Town of Canton reserves the right to reject any or all proposals if it is deemed to be in the public interest to do so.

Town of Canton William R. Scollins, III Finance Director (781) 575-6610

## SEND YOUR LEGAL NOTICES TO SUBMISSIONS@THECANTONCITIZEN.COM

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