

REPORT OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE
SPECIAL TOWN MEETING
DECEMBER 4, 2013

The Finance Committee recommendations with respect to the three articles on the Warrant for the Special Town Meeting to be held December 4, 2013 are as follows:

Article 1: The Finance Committee recommends affirmative action in the amount of \$700,000 from borrowing.

Statement in support of recommendation: The Finance Committee believes that the acquisition of the 55 and 55R Knox Trail parcels in the Town of Acton represents the best chance for a viable solution to allowing the Concord Public Schools School Committee and the Concord-Carlisle Regional School District School Committee to continue to provide in-house school transportation services to the students of the Concord Public Schools and the Concord-Carlisle Regional School District at a manageable cost. The existing arrangement is awkward, costly and can only be continued for a finite time period. No other location permitting continuation of in-house bus transportation services has been found despite a diligent and exhaustive search.

The Finance Committee understands that the Knox Trail site, if it can be acquired, would definitely allow storage of the buses and other school and driver vehicles and may also be useable for servicing, maintaining and repairing the buses, although we understand that there are uncertainties with respect to both the maintenance and repair uses and use of the site for fueling the buses. In addition, the portion of the site not used in connection with bus transportation services may be useful for other Town purposes such as storing of inactive Town vehicles and equipment. Finally the Finance Committee understands that the Knox Trail site, a portion of which abuts the Concord/Acton town line, may provide access to the W.R. Grace parcel in Concord, the acquisition of which was authorized at the 2012 Town Meeting but which has been held up because of, among other reasons, problems of frontage and access.

The Finance Committee has confidence that the Board of Selectmen will work diligently to resolve the issues surrounding this proposed acquisition in a timely manner so that the Schools can use the Knox Trail site for the desired purposes and that the Board will not proceed under the authorization to be conferred by this Article unless it and the School Committees are satisfied that those objectives can be accomplished.

Article 2: The Finance Committee recommends affirmative action.

Statement: This article would, at minimal cost to the Town, permit acquisition of a parcel of land which would provide convenient parking for persons using the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail, a project that Concord and surrounding towns have been working on and supporting for a number of years.

Article 3: The Finance Committee takes no position on this article.

December 3, 2013