

ARTICLE 25. Adopt Conservation Fund Bylaw

Mr. Boehm moves that the Town take affirmative action on Article 25 as printed in the Warrant.

ARTICLE 25: Adopt Conservation Fund Bylaw

Purpose

- Establishes a Conservation Fund under M.G.L. c. 40, § 8C
- Creates a dedicated funding source for conservation purposes
- Administered by the Natural Resources Commission (NRC)
- The NRC may, in accordance with this Bylaw, expend money in the Fund for purposes of conservation, natural resources protection and related purposes

Authorized Uses of the Fund

- Acquisition of conservation and agricultural restrictions
- Preservation and management of conservation land
- Appraisal, engineering, planning, and legal services
- Fee acquisition of land, subject to Select Board approval

Benefits

- Fund allows the NRC to act in response to properties that may become available to the Town for acquisition and conservation
- Includes, but not limited to, parcels of land identified in the *Open Space and Recreation Plan* for conservation

Administration and Coordination

- Fund administered by the Natural Resources Commission, with acquisition of land subject to Select Board approval
- Prior to utilization of the Fund, consultation required with:
 - Concord Municipal Affordable Housing Trust
 - Town Manager
 - Director of Public Works
- Ensures coordination across Town interests

Financial Structure

- Town Treasurer serves as custodian of the Fund
- Funds invested pursuant to M.G.L. c. 44 § 55, 55 A, and 55 B
- Income remains in the Fund
- Funds may carry over year to year
- Funding sources may include, but are not limited to, those from the Community Preservation Act

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