

# Town Meeting

**PLYMOUTH, SS.**

**To either of the Constables of the Town of Hanson, in the County of Plymouth  
GREETINGS,**

In the name of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts you are hereby directed to notify and warn the inhabitants of the Town of Hanson, qualified to vote in Town affairs, and elections, to meet in the Auditorium of the Middle School (off Liberty Street), in said Hanson on Monday the **Fifth day of May, 2008** at 7:30 o'clock in the afternoon to act on the articles in this warrant and furthermore to meet in the Maquan School Auditorium and Cafeteria, on School Street, in said Hanson on Saturday, the **Seventeenth of May, 2008** at 10:00 o'clock in the forenoon, to bring in their votes for Town Officials as stipulated in **Article 26** of this warrant.

**ARTICLE 1:** To hear reports of the various Town Officers, Committees, Special Committees, and act thereon.

Proposed by the Board of Selectmen

**Explanation:** The Reports voted on are those published in the **2007** Town Report.

**ARTICLE 2:** To see if the Town will authorize the Treasurer/Collector to enter into compensating balance agreements during Fiscal 2009 as permitted by Mass. General Laws, Chapter 44, Section 53F or take any other action in relation thereto.

Proposed by the Treasurer/Collector

**Explanation:** Every year this article is voted. It simply allows the Treasurer/Collector to maintain accounts using credits instead of money to pay for banking charges.

**ARTICLE 3:** To see if the Town will vote to transfer \$507,975.00 from the Reserve for appropriation – school debt exclusion reserve account for the purpose of making debt payments on debt issued by the Whitman-Hanson Regional School District, which debt was authorized by Article 34 of the May 2002 Annual Town Meeting and subsequent debt exclusion vote on May 18, 2002, or take any other action thereto.

Proposed by the Treasurer/Collector

**Explanation:** This account is used to pay temporary borrowing for the new high school project.

**ARTICLE 4:** To see if the Town will vote to fix the Salary and Compensation of all paid Elected Officers and Committees of the Town as follows:

	<b>FY08</b>	<b>FY09</b>
Moderator	382.00	382.00
Selectmen		
Chairman	2,041.00	2,041.00
Member	1,443.00	1,443.00
Member	1,443.00	1,443.00
Member	1,443.00	1,443.00
Member	1,443.00	1,443.00
Town Clerk	55,166.00	56,820.00
Tree Warden	2,546.00	\$2,632.00
Assessors		
Chairman	2,041.00	2,041.00
Member	1,443.00	1,443.00
Member	1,443.00	1,443.00
Highway Surveyor	66,973.00	68,983.00
Water Commissioners		
Chairman	2,041.00	2,041.00
Member	1,443.00	1,443.00
Member	1,443.00	1,443.00
Member	1,443.00	1,443.00
Member	1,443.00	1,443.00

Board of Health		
Chairman	2,041.00	2,041.00
Member	1,443.00	1,443.00
Member	1,443.00	1,443.00
Planning Board		
Chairman	2,041.00	2,041.00
Member	1,443.00	1,443.00
Member	1,443.00	1,443.00
Member	1,443.00	1,443.00
Member	1,443.00	1,443.00

or take any other action in relation thereto.

Proposed by the Town Administrator

**Explanation:** This article sets the salaries limits for the elected officials. Article 5 funds the salaries.

**ARTICLE 5 :** To determine what sums of money the Town will appropriate and raise by taxation, transfer from free cash, transfer from Town Ambulance Funds, Water Department Revenue, Conservation Notice of Intent Fund, Overlay Surplus, and Stabilization Fund to defray charges and expenses of the Town, including Debt and Interest and to provide for a reserve fund for the **2009 Fiscal Year** or take any other action in relation thereto.

Proposed by the Board of Selectmen

**Explanation:** This article refers to the FY 2009 Annual Budget Lines

**ARTICLE 6:** To see if the Town will vote to transfer a sum of money from the Title V Special Revenue Fund to the General Fund or take any other action in relation thereto.

Proposed by the Treasurer/Collector

**Explanation:** This fund will be used to pay the administrative costs of the Septic Loan Program in accordance with the Mass. Water Pollution Abatement Trust. \$19,000.

**ARTICLE 7:** To see if the Town will vote to transfer a sum of money from the Mass. Water Pollution Abatement Trust special revenue fund to the general fund maturing debt principal line or take any action in relation thereto.

Proposed by the Town Accountant and  
Treasurer/Collector

**Explanation:** This money is needed to pay down the debt that is due to the MWPAT.  
\$50,000

**ARTICLE 8:** To see if the Town will vote to approve the Capital Improvement Program as presented to the Board of Selectmen by the Capital Improvement Committee or take any other action in relation thereto.

Proposed by the Board of Selectmen and the  
Capital Improvement Committee

**Explanation:** This article accepts the six-year capital improvement plan and matrix submitted by the Capital Improvement Committee.

**ARTICLE 9:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate and/or transfer from free cash or stabilization the sum of \$5,000 for the installation of a key card security system at the Liberty Street Fire Headquarters or take any other action in relation thereto.

Proposed by the Fire Chief.

**Explanation:** These funds will be used to install a key card security system. This system will secure the building and allow authorized personnel to access restricted areas with the current Fire Department Identification Card.

**ARTICLE 10:** To see if the Town will vote to transfer a sum of money from Water Surplus to fund preparation of a Water System Master Plan for the Water Department or take any other action in relation thereto.

Proposed by the Water Commissioners

**Explanation:** A Water System Master Plan will provide a comprehensive overview of Hanson's water system, including, but not limited to, distribution, storage, supply and existing/future demand. This information will be incorporated into a long-term Capital Improvement Plan that prioritizes specific projects with corresponding budgets.

**ARTICLE 11:** To see if the Town will vote to transfer \$50,000 from Water Surplus to fund meter replacements and related meter equipment for the Water Department or take any other action in relation thereto.

Proposed by the Board of Water Commission

**Explanation:** This is our yearly article to replace, update; and in all ways improve the operation of our meter reading program.

**ARTICLE 12** To see if the Town will vote to transfer \$40,000 from water surplus to purchase a Skid Steer for the use of the Water Department or take any other action in relation thereto.

Proposed by the Board of Water Commission

**Explanation:** This machine will afford flexibility in moving materials during work on the system.

**ARTICLE 13:** To see if the Town will vote to allow an increase in the exemption amount granted to certain elderly taxpayers as allowed in MGL Chapter 59, Section 5 Clause 41D, or take any other action thereto.

Proposed by the Board of Assessors

**Explanation:** Currently, certain elderly taxpayers are granted a \$750.00 annual exemption from property taxes, if they meet certain income and asset limits. An annual exemption of \$1,000.00 is proposed. The additional monies will be funded from the Overlay Account.

There will be no additional reimbursement from the Commonwealth, if this increase is adopted.

**ARTICLE 14:** To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to sign a five year extension of the Intermunicipal Agreement relative to the South Shore Recycling Cooperative, effective July 1, 2008 or taken any other action thereto

Proposed by: Board of Selectmen  
Board of Health  
Recycling Committee

**Explanation:** In accordance with MGL Chapter 40, Section 4A, each member town must accept reauthorization of this agreement every 5 years.

**ARTICLE 15:** To see if the town will vote to allow the Parks and Fields Commission to construct a third baseball field on the land southwest of the existing Boteri Field, as shown on Map 71, lot 11A of the Town of Hanson Assessors Map or take any other action in relation thereto.

Proposed by the Parks and Fields Commission

**Explanation:** Requesting permission on the feasibility and availability of constructing a third baseball field to complete a complex that is required for the large numbers of the youth playing baseball, today and the future. No funds are requested at this time.

**ARTICLE 16:** To see if the Town will vote to amend the General Bylaws Article 2-12, **Classification and Compensation - Index** by deleting the words “Clerical Contract” and in their place inserting the words “Administrative Professionals Contract” or take any other action in relation thereto.

Proposed by the Town Administrator

**Explanation:** This is a housekeeping item to correctly identify the Union.

**ARTICLE 17:** To see if the Town will vote to amend the General Bylaws Article 2-12, **Classification and Compensation** Section 16 – Clerical Contract by deleting the words “Clerical Contract” and in their place inserting the words “Administrative Professionals Contract” or take any other action in relation thereto.

Proposed by the Town Administrator

**Explanation:** This is a housekeeping item to correctly identify the Union.

**ARTICLE 18:** To see if the Town will vote, pursuant to the provisions of G.L. c.44B, §5, to amend the Town Bylaws to adopt a new general bylaw creating a Community Preservation Committee to read as follows:

*[Insert the numbering of this bylaw]*

**Hanson Community Preservation  
Committee (CPC) Bylaw**

**Section 1: Establishment**

There is hereby established a Community Preservation Committee (Committee), consisting of nine (9) voting members pursuant to MGL Chapter 44B. The composition of the Committee, the appointment authority and the term of office for the Committee members shall be as follows:

One member of the Conservation Commission, as designated by the Commission, for an initial term of two (2) years and then a term of three years thereafter.

One member of the Historical Commission, as designated by the Commission, for an initial term of one (1) year and then a term of three years thereafter.

One member of the Planning Board, as designated by the Board, for an initial term of one (1) year and then a term of three years thereafter.

One member of the Parks and Fields Commission, as designated by the Commission, for an initial term of two (2) years and then a term of three years thereafter.

One member of the Housing Authority, as designated by the Authority, for an initial term of two years and thereafter for a term of three years.

Four ( 4) At Large members appointed by the Board Selectmen, for an initial term of one year and thereafter for a terms of one, two and three years respectively.

Notwithstanding the terms of office set forth above, in the event that a person no longer serves in the position or on the Commissions, Boards, Authorities or Committees designated above, such person shall be deemed to have vacated his or her position on the Community Preservation Committee.

Should any of the Commissions, Boards, Authorities, or Committees who have appointment authority under this Section be no longer in existence for whatever reason, if a successor Commission, Board, Authority or Committee is created, the appointment authority shall remain with the successor, but if no successor Commission, Board, Authority or Committee is created, the appointment authority for that Commission, Board, Authority or Committee shall become the responsibility of the Board of Selectmen.

Any member of the Committee may be removed for cause by their respective appointing authority after hearing.

## **Section 2: Duties**

(1). The Committee shall study the needs, possibilities, and resources of the town regarding community preservation. The Committee shall meet monthly, notice of which shall be posted publicly as required. The Committee shall consult with existing municipal boards, including the Conservation Commission, the Historical Commission, the Planning Board, the Parks and Fields Commission and the Housing Authority, or boards acting in those capacities or performing like duties, in conducting such studies. As part of its study, the Committee shall hold an annual public informational hearing, and may hold such additional public information hearings as it deems appropriate, on the needs, possibilities and resources of the town regarding community preservation possibilities and resources prior to the annual Town Meeting, notice of which shall be posted publicly and published for each of two weeks preceding a hearing in a newspaper of general circulation in the town.

(2). The Committee shall make recommendations to the Town Meeting for the acquisition, creation and preservation of open space; for the acquisition, preservation, rehabilitation and restoration of historic resources; for the acquisition, creation and preservation of land for recreational use; for the creation, preservation and support of community housing; and for the rehabilitation or restoration of open space, land for recreational use and community housing that is acquired or created as provided in this section. With respect to community housing, the Committee shall recommend, wherever possible, the reuse of existing buildings or construction of new buildings on previously developed sites.

(3). The Committee may include, in its recommendation to the Town Meeting, a recommendation to set aside for later spending funds for specific purposes that are consistent with community preservation but for which sufficient revenues are not then available in the Community Preservation Fund to accomplish that specific purpose or to set aside for later spending for general purposes that are consistent with community preservation.

(4). In every fiscal year, the Committee must recommend either that the Town Meeting spend, or set aside for later spending, not less than 10% of the annual revenues in the Community Preservation Fund for:

- (a) Open space (not including land for recreational use);
- (b) Historic resources; and
- (c) Community Housing

As provided in the Massachusetts Community Preservation Act, no expenditures shall be made from the Community Preservation Fund without the approval of Town Meeting.



The Committee will submit an annual administrative and operating budget for itself, which cannot exceed five percent (5%) of the annual revenues in the Community Preservation Fund, to Town Meeting for approval.

### **Section 3: Requirement for a Quorum and Cost Estimates**

The Community Preservation Committee shall not meet or conduct business without the presence of a quorum. A majority of the members of the Community Preservation Committee shall constitute a quorum. The Committee shall approve its actions by majority vote. Recommendations to the Town Meeting shall include their anticipated costs.

### **Section 4: Amendments**

This Section may be amended from time to time by a majority vote of the Town Meeting, provided that the amendments would not cause a conflict to occur with MGL, Chapter 44B.

### **Section 5: Rules, Regulations, Policies and Procedures**

After public notice and public hearing the Committee may promulgate rules, regulations, policies and procedures to achieve the purpose of this by-law. Failure by the Community Preservation Committee to promulgate such rules, regulations, policies and procedures or a legal declaration of their invalidity by a court of law shall not act to suspend or invalidate the effect of this by-law.

### **Section 6: Annual Community Preservation Plan**

Annually, the Committee shall produce a Community Preservation Plan. The Plan shall be published and available to any interested resident and be on file at the Town Hall. The Plan shall describe the community's preservation needs and goals for the year in the following categories: open space, historical preservation, community housing and recreation. The plan shall also include a budget and selection criteria for proposed projects as well as an assessment of achievements with respect to the previous year's goals.

### **Section 7: Severability**

In case any section, paragraph or part of this Section is for any reason declared invalid or unconstitutional by any court of last resort, every other section, paragraph or part shall continue in full force and effect.

### **Section 8: Effective Date**

Provided that the Community Preservation Act is accepted at the 2008 Annual Town Election, this Bylaw shall take effect upon approval of the Attorney General of the Commonwealth, and after all the requirements of General Laws Chapter 40, Section 32 have been met. Each appointing authority shall have thirty days after approval by the Attorney General to make its initial appointment.

Proposed by the Conservation Commission

**Explanation:** If the Town accepts the CPA, then a committee must be created to administer the fund, set priorities, make recommendations and manage projects that use CPA funds. The alternative to structuring the Committee now will be to wait until Town Meeting scheduled for the Spring of 2009. No work could be undertaken under the CPA until then. If the CPA is not passed by ballot then this proposed by-law shall become null and void.

**ARTICLE 19:** To see if the Town will vote to name the 65+/- acre open space parcel along the Indian Head Brook Corridor with access from State Street, Old Pine Drive and Puritan Drive (Assessor's Map 112, Parcel 14, Map 105 Parcels 1,2,and 5) the **Webster - Billings Conservation Area.**

Or take any other action in relation thereto.

Proposed by the Hanson Conservation Commission

**Explanation:** The Town of Hanson has already recognized several of its past Conservation Leaders in the naming of the 100 acre Smith-Nawazelski Conservation Area as well as the 57 acre Brian Gaffey Conservation Area. Dana Billings was a past member and Chairman of the Commission and served in many other community roles e.g. Scoutmaster of Boy Scout Troop 111, Cub master of Pack 35, Auxiliary Police Officer and more. Norma Billings has been active in numerous civic endeavors over the years. Mr. & Mrs. Billings were and are still are public spirited, conservation minded and well respected throughout the community. As leaders and parents they have taught their children and grandchildren to respect and protect our natural resources and encouraged others to do the same through scouting and municipal conservation programs. The Billings family still makes their home on Elm Place near this particular conservation area. Susan K Webster was responsible for the Town Meeting accepting the above property for open space and conservation. She drafted the Article for the Town Warrant and made the presentation to the Town Meeting. In addition she served as the vice chair person for the bi-centennial committee and on the Hanson Planning Board.

**ARTICLE 20:** To see if the Town will vote to hear the report and support the renovations to the Maquan School and allow the project to be submitted to School Building Assistance for review or take any other action in relation there to.

Proposed by the Maquan School  
Feasibility Study Committee

**Explanation:** This article only authorizes the School Committee to request SBA review of feasibility of the project. Funding is not being requested at this time.

**ARTICLE 21:** To see if the Town will vote to authorize the continuation of a revolving fund under the provisions of Massachusetts General Law, Chapter 44, Section 53E ½ for the use by the Hanson Board of Assessors, such funds to be used for the purchase and maintenance of maps including GIS. The receipts generated through the sale of these maps shall be credited to the revolving account. The Board of Assessors authorized to expend from the fund for the stated purpose without further appropriation subject to the restrictions contained in G.L. Chapter 44, Section 53E ½ an amount not to exceed \$1,500. Expenditures shall not be made or liabilities incurred in excess of the balance of the fund at any given time or take any other action in relation thereto.

Proposed by the Board of Assessors

**Explanation:** To purchase and maintain maps including GIS and to help defray the cost of providing updated assessors maps to various Town Departments.

**ARTICLE 22:** To see if the Town will vote to authorize the continuation of a revolving fund under the provisions of Massachusetts General Law, Chapter 44, Section 53E 1/2 for the use by the Parks and Fields Commission for the sport programs including maintenance and equipment. The receipts credited to the fund shall be those generated through a recycling program at the Hanson Transfer Station. The Parks and Fields Commission is authorized to expend from the fund for the stated purpose without future appropriation subject to the restrictions contained in G.L. Chapter 44, Section 53E 1/2 an amount not to exceed \$15,000.00. Expenditures shall not be made, or liabilities incurred in excess of the balance of the fund at any given time or take any other action in relation thereto.

Proposed by the Parks and Fields Commission

**Explanation:** This article is voted every year. The article provides the Parks and Fields Commission the ability to generate funds through a recycling program. The funds are used for the sports programs.

**ARTICLE 23:** To see if the Town will vote to authorize the continuation of a revolving fund under the provisions of Massachusetts General Law Chapter 44, Section 53 E ½ for the purpose of the Hanson Public Library operations including purchase, repair, and maintenance of the copy machine (s), equipment and copy machine (s) supplies, printers and printing supplies, and the replacement of lost and damaged library materials. The following receipts generated shall be credited to the fund: Receipts from charges to the public for the use of the copy machine (s) and fines and fees charged for lost, damaged and overdue library materials.

The Board of Library Trustees is authorized to expend from the account for its stated purpose without further appropriation subject to the restrictions contained in G.L. Chapter 44, Section 53E ½ an amount not to exceed \$5000.00. Expenditures shall not be made, or liabilities incurred in excess of the balance of the fund at any given time or take any other action relation thereto.

Proposed by the Board of Library Trustees

**Explanation:** This article is voted every year. This is the Revolving Fund.

**ARTICLE 24:** To see if the Town will vote to authorize the continuation of a revolving fund established under the provisions of Massachusetts General Law, Chapter 44, section 53E ½ for the use of Hanson Senior Center /Library operations to include repairs, maintenance of the facility, purchases, repairs and maintenance of equipment, additional utility expenses, janitorial and staff reimbursement. The following receipts generated shall be credited to the fund: Receipts from deposit and hourly use charges imposed upon any group or individual that has with prior approval agreed to the use and fee regulations as set forth by the Council for Elder Affairs and the Board of Library Trustees.

The Council for Elder Affairs or the Board of Library Trustees is authorized to expend from the account for its stated purpose without further appropriation subject to the restrictions contained in G.L. c. 44 Section 53E ½ an amount of money not to exceed \$3000.00. Expenditures shall not be made, or liabilities incurred in excel of the balance of the fund at any given time or take any other action in relation thereto.

Proposed by the Library Board of Trustees and the Council of Elder Affairs

**Explanation:** This article is voted every year. This is the Revolving Fund for the community room at the Senior Center.

**ARTICLE 25:** To see if the Town will vote to approve and authorize the continuation of the revolving fund under the provisions of Massachusetts General Law, Chapter 44, Section 53 for the Hanson Council on Aging Supportive Care Program to be used for expenses needed to run said program on a year-round basis. The receipts generated from Supportive Care Program shall be credited to the revolving account. The Director of Elder Affairs is authorized to make expenditures and which shall have as an annual upper limit an amount of \$105,000 or take any action relative thereto.

Proposed by the Council on Aging

**Explanation:** To cover the costs of the Supportive Care Program including staffing and materials.

**ARTICLE 26:** To bring in their votes for the following offices: A Moderator for one year, two Selectmen for three years, two Selectmen for one year, an Assessor for three years, a Board of Health member for three years, a Cemetery Commissioner for three years, , a member of the Planning Board for five years, a member of the Housing Authority for five years, a member of the Housing Authority for one year, two Trustees of Memorial Field for three years, two Trustees of the Public Library for three years, one member of the Whitman- Hanson Regional School District Committee PreK-12 for three years, one Water Commissioner for three years and one question.

**Question 1:**

Shall the Town of Hanson accept sections 3 to 7 inclusive, of Chapter 44B of the General Laws, as approved by its legislative body, a summary of which appears below?

Sections 3 to 7 of Chapter 44B of the General Laws of Massachusetts, also known as the Community Preservation Act (“Act”), establishes a dedicated funding source to acquire, create and preserve open space and land for recreational use; acquire, preserve, rehabilitate and restore historic resources; acquire, create, preserve and support community housing; and to rehabilitate and restore open space, land for recreational use and community housing that is acquired or created in accordance with the Act. In Hanson, the Act will be funded, beginning in Fiscal Year 2009, by an additional surcharge of one and one half (1.5%) percent on the annual tax levy on real property and by matching funds provided by the state. The following exemptions from such surcharge, permitted under Section 3(e) of said Act, will apply: (1) property owned and occupied as a domicile by a person who would qualify for low income housing or low or moderate income senior housing in the Town; (2) \$100,000 of the value of each taxable parcel of residential real property. A taxpayer receiving a regular property tax abatement or exemption will also receive a pro rata reduction in surcharge. A Community Preservation Committee must be created pursuant to by-law and will make recommendations on the use of the funds. Town Meeting must approve any such recommendation before funds can be expended. All expenditures pursuant to the Act will be subject to an annual audit

And you are directed to serve this Warrant by posting attested copies thereof, at the Town Hall, the Fire Station, the public stores, and Post Offices, seven days at least, before the said meeting.

Hereof fail not, and make due return of this Warrant, with your doings thereon, to the Town Clerk at the time and place above-mentioned.

Given under our hands, this 15th day of April, in the year of our Lord two thousand eight.

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**Selectmen of Hanson**

**A true attest copy**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Town Clerk**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Date**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Constable**

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