

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

Middlesex, ss. Officer's Return, Town of Reading:

By virtue of this Warrant, I Thomas H Freeman Jr, on October 26, 2017 notified and warned the inhabitants of the Town of Reading, qualified to vote on Town affairs, to meet at the place and at the time specified by posting attested copies of this Town Meeting Warrant in the following public places within the Town of Reading:

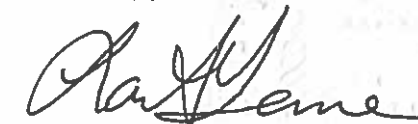
- Precinct 1 J. Warren Killam School, 333 Charles Street
- Precinct 2 Reading Police Station, 15 Union Street
- Precinct 3 Reading Municipal Light Department, 230 Ash Street
- Precinct 4 Joshua Eaton School, 365 Summer Avenue
- Precinct 5 Reading Public Library, 64 Middlesex Avenue
- Precinct 6 Barrows School, 16 Edgemont Avenue
- Precinct 7 Birch Meadow School, 27 Arthur B Lord Drive
- Precinct 8 Wood End School, 85 Sunset Rock Lane
- Town Hall, 16 Lowell Street

The date of posting being not less than fourteen (14) days prior to November 13, 2017, the date set for Town Meeting in this Warrant.

I also caused a posting of this Warrant to be published on the Town of Reading website on October 26, 2017.


Constable

A true copy Attest:


Laura A Gemme, Town Clerk

TOWN WARRANT



COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

Middlesex, ss.

To any of the Constables of the Town of Reading, Greetings:

In the name of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, you are hereby required to notify and warn the inhabitants of the Town of Reading, qualified to vote in the Local Elections and Town affairs, to meet at the Reading Memorial High School Performing Arts Center, 62 Oakland Road, in said Reading, on Monday November 13, 2017 at seven-thirty o'clock in the evening, at which time and place the following articles are to be acted upon and determined exclusively by Town Meeting Members in accordance with the provisions of the Reading Home Rule Charter.

ARTICLE 1 To hear and act on the reports of the Board of Selectmen, School Committee, Library Trustees, Municipal Light Board, Finance Committee, Bylaw Committee, Town Manager, Town Accountant and any other Town Official, Board or Committee.

Board of Selectmen

ARTICLE 2 To choose all other necessary Town Officers and Boards or Committees and determine what instructions shall be given Town Officers and Boards or Committees, and to see what sum the Town will vote to appropriate by borrowing or transfer from available funds, or otherwise, for the purpose of funding Town Officers and Boards or Committees to carry out the instructions given to them, or take any other action with respect thereto.

Board of Selectmen

ARTICLE 3 To see if the Town will vote to amend the FY 2018-28 Capital Improvements Program as provided for in Section 7-7 of the Reading Home Rule Charter and as previously amended, or take any other action with respect thereto.

Board of Selectmen

ARTICLE 4 To see if the Town will vote to amend the Town's Operating Budget for the Fiscal Year commencing July 1, 2017, as adopted under Article 16 of the Annual Town Meeting of April 4, 2017; and to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, borrow or transfer from available funds, or otherwise provide a sum or sums of money to be added to the

amounts appropriated under said Article, as amended, for the operation of the Town and its government, or take any other action with respect thereto.

Finance Committee

ARTICLE 5 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds or otherwise provide a sum or sums of money to pay bills remaining unpaid from prior fiscal years for goods and services actually rendered to the Town, or take any other action with respect thereto.

Board of Selectmen

ARTICLE 6 To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to sell, exchange, or dispose of, various items of Town tangible property, upon such terms and conditions as they may determine; or take any other action with respect thereto.

Board of Selectmen

ARTICLE 7 To see if the Town will vote to appropriate a portion of the premium paid to the Town upon the sale of bonds issued on June 30, 2017 to pay costs of capital projects and to reduce the amounts appropriated for such projects by the same amount; or to take any other action with respect thereto.

Board of Selectmen

ARTICLE 8 To see if the Town will vote to amend the General Bylaw as follows:

- A. Amend Section 8.9.7 (Public Consumption of Marijuana or Tetrahydrocannabinol) by deleting the second paragraph thereof in its entirety and inserting, in place thereof, the following:

The Police Department may enforce the provisions of this section through any lawful means in law or in equity including enforcement by noncriminal disposition pursuant to MGL Chapter 40 Section 21D. The fine for violation of this section shall be One Hundred (\$100) Dollars for each offense pursuant to MGL Chapter 94G Sections 13(c) and (g), and MGL Chapter 94C Section 32N.

and

- B. Amend the Table set forth in Section 1.8 (Non-Criminal Civil Disposition of Certain Violations of the Bylaw and any Rule or Regulation of a Town Officer, Board or Department) by deleting the figure "\$300" wherever it appears on line 8.9.7, and inserting, in place thereof, the figure "\$100."

or take any other action with respect thereto.

ARTICLE 9 To see if the Town will vote to amend the General Bylaw as follows:

- A. Delete Section 1.9 (Severability) in its entirety and insert, in place thereof, the following:

If any provision of this bylaw shall be found invalid for any reason in a court of competent jurisdiction, such invalidity shall be construed as narrowly as possible, and the balance of this bylaw shall be deemed to be amended to the minimum extent necessary, so as to secure the purposes thereof, as set forth in Section 1.1 hereof.

- B. Delete Section 1.10.3 (He, His, Himself) in its entirety and renumber Section 1.10.4 (Inhabitant) as 1.10.3

- C. Insert a new Section 1.10.4 as follows:

Local News Medium

A newspaper or other means or channel of information communication to which the general public has access within the Town.

- D. Delete Section 1.10.9 (Precincts) in its entirety and insert, in place thereof, the following:

Precinct

Each of the areas into which the Town is divided for the purpose of conducting elections.

- E. Insert a new Section 1.11 as follows:

Number and Gender

Words contained in this bylaw that import the singular number may extend and be applied to several persons or things; words that import the plural number may include the singular; and words that import the masculine gender shall include the feminine gender.

- F. Insert a new Section 1.12 as follows:

Computation of Time

In computing time under this bylaw, if seven (7) days or less is specified, only days that Town Hall is open to the general public shall be counted; if more than seven (7) days is specified, every calendar day shall be counted.

and delete Section 4.1.5.3 (Computation of Time) in its entirety.

- G. Delete the words "local newspaper" from Section 2.1.6 (Posting of the Warrant) and insert, in place thereof, the words "Local News Medium."

- H. Amend Section 2.2.1 (Conduct of Town Meeting) by:
1. Deleting the words "the bylaw or Charter" from Rule 4 and inserting, in place thereof, the words "this bylaw or the Charter."
 2. Deleting the word "therefore" from Rule 4 and inserting, in place thereof, the word "therefor."
 3. Deleting the word "money" from Rule 14 and inserting, in place thereof, the word "funds."
 4. Inserting, in Rule 19, a comma (",") after the word "Time."
- I. Delete the words "some newspaper" from Section 2.2.4.3 (Posting and Advertising) and insert, in place thereof, the words "a Local News Medium."
- J. Amend all provisions of Section 2.2.7 (Removal of Town Meeting Members) by deleting the words "Section 2-6 of the Charter," wherever they appear, and inserting, in place thereof, the words "Section 2.6 of the Charter."
- K. Delete the first two sentences of Section 2.2.7.2 (Precinct Recommendation) in their entirety and insert, in place thereof, the following:

At a Precinct meeting held prior to consideration by Town Meeting of any warrant article submitted pursuant to Section 2.6 of the Charter, Town Meeting Members from each precinct shall adopt a recommendation to Town Meeting on whether each member from the precinct listed in such article should be removed from Town Meeting.

- L. Delete the first sentence of Section 2.2.9 (Rules Committee) in its entirety and insert, in place thereof, the following:

The members of the Rules Committee, established under Section 2.12 of the Charter, shall meet no less than once every two (2) years.

- M. Delete the title of Section 3.2.1 (Town Treasurer-Collector) and insert, in place thereof, the following:

Town Collector

- N. Delete Section 3.2.1.1 (Duties) in its entirety and insert, in place thereof, the following:

Duties

The Town Collector shall be responsible for the collection and receipt of all sums and accounts due, owing or paid to the Town, including taxes and fees.

- O. Delete Section 3.2.1.3 (Receipts) in its entirety.

- P. Insert a new Section 3.2.4 as follows:

Town Treasurer
3.2.4.1 Duties

In addition to the powers and duties conferred and imposed upon Town Treasurers by the Massachusetts General Laws, the Town Treasurer shall:

- Supervise and be responsible for the prompt deposit, safekeeping and management of all monies collected or received by the Town;
- Be the custodian of all funds, monies, securities or other things of value that are or have been given, bequeathed or deposited in trust with the Town for any purpose, including the preservation, care, improvement or embellishment of any of the Town's cemeteries or burial lots therein;
- Invest all sums held in trust as he determines to be appropriate after consultation with the Board of Commissioners of Trust Funds; and
- Distribute the income therefrom on the order of said Board.

3.2.4.2 Receipts

The Town Treasurer shall, at least once in each week, pay over to the Treasurer's accounts all money received by him during the preceding week or lesser period, including any sum received as interest on moneys received by him on all accounts committed to him and deposited in any bank. He shall give bond to the Town for the faithful performance of his duties in a form approved by the Commissioner of Revenue and in such sum, not less than the amount that may be established by said Commissioner, as shall be fixed by the Selectmen.

Q. Amend the first sentence of Section 3.3.2.2 (Recommendation to Town Meeting) by:

1. Deleting the first word "The" in the first sentence and inserting, in place thereof, the words "Unless otherwise stipulated in the Charter, the."
2. Inserting the words "or Subsequent" after the word "Annual."

R. Amend Section 3.3.3 (Bylaw Committee) by

1. Deleting the word "bylaw" from the first sentence, and inserting, in place thereof, the words "Charter, this bylaw, Special Acts or local acceptance of State statutes."
2. Inserting, at the end of the first sentence, the words "and may also report on proposed changes to the Zoning Bylaw."
3. Deleting the words "included in the Finance Committee report" from the second sentence, and inserting, in place thereof, the words "made available in the same manner."

S. Delete the title of Section 3.3.5.2 (Selection of Audit Firm), and insert, in place thereof, a new title, "Duties."

T. Delete the words "Section 6-4 of the Charter" from Section 5.2 (Resolution of Legal Matters) and insert, in place thereof, the words "Section 6.4 of the Charter."

U. Amend all provisions of Section 5.3.1 (Procedure for Adoption) by deleting the words "Section 8-7 of the Charter" wherever they appear, and inserting, in place thereof, the words "Section 8.7 of the Charter."

and

- V. Amend the second sentence of Section 5.3.3 (Filing of Approved Rules and Regulations) by deleting the words "Section 8-8 of the Charter," and inserting, in place thereof, the words "Section 8.8 of the Charter."

or take any other action with respect thereto.

Board of Selectmen

ARTICLE 10 To see if the Town will vote to amend the General Bylaw as follows:

- A. Insert a new Section 8.13 as follows:

Section 8.13 REGULATION OF RETAIL CHECKOUT BAGS

8.13.1 Purpose

The purpose of this Section is to regulate the retail use of plastic bags and adopt the use of reusable, recyclable and/or biodegradable bags for use at checkout.

8.13.2 Definitions

The following words shall, unless the context clearly requires otherwise, have the following meanings:

- 8.13.2.1 "Checkout bag," a carryout bag provided by a store to a customer at the point of sale. Checkout bags shall not include bags, whether plastic or not, in which loose produce or products are placed by the consumer to deliver such items to the point of sale or check out area of the store.
- 8.13.2.2 "Compostable plastic bag," a plastic bag that: (1) conforms to the current ASTM D6400, the ASTM International "Standard Specification for Labeling of Plastics Designed to be Aerobically Composted in Municipal or Industrial Facilities" for compostability; (2) is certified and labeled as meeting the ASTM D6400 standard specification by a recognized verification entity; and (3) conforms to any other standards deemed acceptable by the Director.
- 8.13.2.3 "Director," DPW Director or the DPW Director's designee.
- 8.13.2.4 "Marine degradable plastic bag," a plastic bag that conforms to the ASTM D7081, the ASTM International "Standard Specification for Non-Floating Biodegradable Plastics in the Marine Environment" and conforms to any other standards deemed acceptable by the Director.
- 8.13.2.5 "Recyclable paper bag," a paper bag that is: (1) 100 percent recyclable; and (2) contains at least 40% post-consumer recycled paper content and is clearly labeled as such.

- 8.13.2.6 "Reusable checkout bag," a bag with handles that: (1) can carry twenty-five (25) pounds over a distance of three hundred (300) feet; and (2) is either (a) made of cloth or other machine washable fabric, or (b) made of plastic that is durable, non-toxic, and generally considered a food-grade material other than polyethylene or polyvinyl chloride, and that is at least three (3) mils thick.
- 8.13.2.7 "Retail Establishment," any commercial enterprise including, but not limited to the following: restaurants, pharmacies, convenience and grocery stores, liquor stores, seasonal and temporary businesses, jewelry stores, household goods stores and any other business that offers the sale and display of merchandise.
- 8.13.2.8 "Single-use plastic checkout bags," any plastic bag less than 3 mils thick.

8.13.3 Regulation

- 8.13.3.1 If any Retail Establishment provides plastic Checkout bags to customers, the plastic Checkout bags shall comply with the standards for Compostable plastic bags and Marine degradable plastic bags.
- 8.13.3.2 If a Retail Establishment provides Checkout bags, the Checkout bags shall be Marine degradable plastic bags, Reusable checkout bags, Compostable plastic bags or Recyclable paper bags. Retail Establishments are encouraged to make Reusable bags available for free or for sale to customers at a reasonable price.
- 8.13.3.3 Except as otherwise provided herein, Single-use plastic checkout bags shall not be distributed, used or sold for checkout or other purposes at any Retail Establishment within the Town of Reading. Existing stocks of Single-use checkout bags shall be phased out within six (6) months following the effective date of Section 8.13.
- 8.13.3.4 The following are exempt and not subject to the provisions of Section 8.13:
- o Bags used by customers to:
 - package bulk items, such as fruit, vegetables, nuts, grains, candy or small hardware items;
 - contain or wrap frozen foods, meat, or fish;
 - contain or wrap flowers, potted plants, or other items where dampness may be a problem; and
 - o Laundry or dry-cleaning bags or bags sold in packages containing multiple bags intended to be used for home food storage, garbage, waste, pet waste or yard waste.

8.13.4 Administration and Enforcement

- 8.13.4.1 The Director shall have the authority to administer and enforce Section 8.13. In addition to any other means of enforcement, the provision of Section 8.13 and any regulations adopted pursuant thereto may be enforced by non-criminal disposition in accordance with the provisions of Section 1.8 and MGL Chapter 40 Section 21D.

8.13.4.2 Retail Establishments shall have fifteen (15) calendar days, after the date that a notice of violation is issued, to pay the penalty or request a hearing in writing to the Director. No more than one (1) penalty shall be imposed upon a Retail Establishment within a fifteen (15) calendar-day period.

8.13.4.3 In the event that compliance with Section 8.13 is not feasible for a Retail Establishment because of either unavailability of suitable Checkout bags or economic hardship, the Director may grant a waiver of not more than six (6) months upon application of the owner or owner's representative. The Director may provide one (1) additional six-month waiver upon showing of continued infeasibility or hardship, as set forth above.

8.13.4.4 The Director may promulgate rules and regulations to implement Section 8.13.

and

- B. Amend the Table set forth in Section 1.8 (Non-Criminal Civil Disposition of Certain Violations of the Bylaw and any Rule or Regulation of a Town Officer, Board or Department) by adding, after line 8.12, a new line as follows:

Bylaw Section	Bylaw Title	Enforcing Person	Penalty - First Offense	Penalty - Second Offense	Penalty - Additional Offenses
8.13	Regulation of Retail Checkout Bags	Director of Public Works	Warning	\$50	\$200

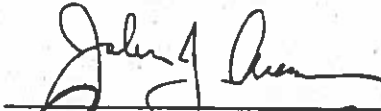
or take any other action with respect thereto.


Board of Selectmen

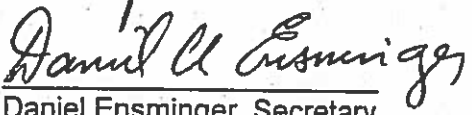
and you are directed to serve this Warrant by posting an attested copy thereof in at least one (1) public place in each precinct of the Town not less than fourteen (14) days prior to November 13, 2017, or providing in a manner such as electronic submission, holding for pickup or mailing, an attested copy of said Warrant to each Town Meeting Member.

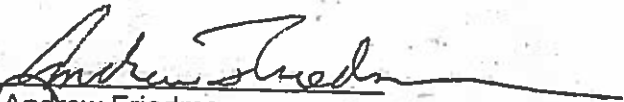
Hereof fail not and make due return of this Warrant with your doings thereon to the Town Clerk at or before the time appointed for said meeting.

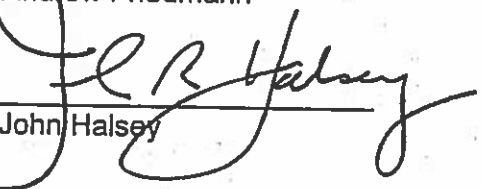
Given under our hands this 26th day of September, 2017.

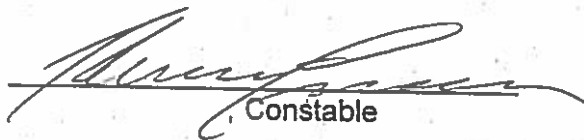

John Arena, Chairman


Barry Bertram, Vice Chairman


Daniel Ensminger, Secretary


Andrew Friedmann


John Halsey


Constable

SELECTMEN OF READING