

## **Town Article 20 – Citizens Petition**

This article is a Citizens Petition to raise \$750 for the purchase of wreaths to be used at Memorial Day and Veterans Day services held within the Town.

Last year, the Town did not fund the wreaths for the Memorial Day ceremonies (1)(2), and the cost was later covered by donation. Memorial Day ceremonies last year included a parade with wreaths laid at the flagpole at each of the Old Pine Grove and New Pine Grove cemeteries, one cast in the Lamprey River from the Epping Street bridge, and one laid at the foot of the Civil War monument at the Town Common. This has been a tradition, with the American Legion Post 90 and VFW Post 4479 organizing the ceremonies in recent years, and the Town has typically paid the cost of the wreaths. (3)(4)

The Town, VFW, and American Legion wanted to have a Memorandum of Understanding for the responsibilities and any cost for these ceremonies. (3) The BOS stated concern regarding this Citizen Petition as “this may fall into the same category the DRA had cautioned the Town as the best practices [ensuring] that all expenditures should be paid for services or goods and should not be received by individuals or organizations” (4) and concern that the language is not precise about who will use the wreaths and whether they will remain on Town property. (1)

The Estimated 2025 Tax Impact is an additional \$0.00055 per thousand of valuation, or \$0.11 on a \$200,000 home.

**A YES vote** would raise \$750 for the purpose of wreaths for Memorial Day and Veterans Day ceremonies.

**A NO vote** would not raise additional funds for wreaths.

### **Reasons why some voters might vote yes:**

- Consider these ceremonies patriotic and a benefit for the entire Town
- Small amount of money to honor veterans

### **Reasons why some voters might vote no:**

- Don't want taxpayer funds to be used for this purpose, preferring another method of funding such as private donations
- Want a process in place to organize and fund the ceremonies for Memorial Day and Veterans Day

### **References:**

1. Public Hearing for Town Warrant Articles, Budget Committee, 01/14/2025, minutes p. 9, <https://tinyurl.com/5a82vz9p> RCTV link at timestamp [3:04:31], <https://tinyurl.com/yxwn4x5f>
2. BOS meeting, 07/29/2024, minutes pp. 1-19, <https://tinyurl.com/5edpxdxt> and RCTV video at timestamp [01:37 - 40:50] <https://tinyurl.com/42vzk5fu>
3. BOS meeting, 08/12/2024, minutes p. 26, <https://tinyurl.com/4m3cbubd>, and RCTV video at timestamp [1:38:55- 2:33:40] <https://tinyurl.com/ycysnrwm>
4. BOS Recommendations, 2025 Voter Information Guide, 02/05/2025, <https://tinyurl.com/4cp63hdd>