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## **Brookline PAX Recommendations**

### **Special Town Meetings, November 14, 2017**

**Art. 3 - SUPPORT** – 2018 budget amendments - Routine reallocations, plus a public transportation-friendly amendment by PAX Board member, Tommy Vitolo, TMM-6, to re-appropriate \$50,000 for a Study of MBTA Traffic Signalization, to the implementation (in partnership with MBTA) of a Traffic Signal Priority System Pilot Program on Beacon St. (C Line, St. Mary's St. to Cleveland Cir).

**Art. 4 - SUPPORT** – Acquisition of 111 Cypress St, for much needed BHS expansion - There is no apparent opposition to the taking of this property by eminent domain, and it's widely supported by residents of Brington Road, which abuts the property.

**Art. 5 and Special TM Art. 1 (STM1) – SUPPORT AMENDED STM1** – School site selection study funds - More K-8 classrooms is an urgent need, but we shares some concerns about various challenges at either Baldwin or Pine Manor. FAVORABLE ACTION on STM1 expands consideration to more sites, hopefully/maybe more environmentally friendly, maybe just redeveloping existing sites, and/or located closer to more kids.

**Art. 6 - SUPPORT** – Raise income eligibility for Senior Tax Deferral

**Art. 7 - SUPPORT** – Change interest rate for Senior Tax Deferral

**Art. 8 - SUPPORT** – Create voluntary tax bill check-off for Senior tax relief fund

This series of articles will provide modest but much needed property tax relief to Brookline Seniors of low to modest income, through an expansion and modification of the existing tax deferral program, and by establishing a program to solicit and administer voluntary contributions earmarked for Senior tax relief.

**Art. 10 – 15 and Second Special TM Art. 1 (SSTM1) – OPPOSE** - Related to approval of a master development plan for Hancock Village - We take very seriously that all TMM's from Pct. 16 oppose the Hancock Village master development plan, which considers "affordable" those units that can be afforded by families with annual incomes at 80% of Area Median Income. Under 40B, "affordable" is better, 50% of AMI. Further, the plan is for fewer affordable units than a likely 40B development. We are told that most/all the TMM-16's are willing to run the risk of a 40B, which surprises us, but would likely provide more of the (truly) affordable units, helping reach 40B's safe-harbor, and adding some affordable units in South Brookline. Lastly, of three buildings in the master development plan, "affordable" units would be concentrated in two, more modest buildings with fewer amenities, which seems wrong. Even if these articles fail, we appreciate all the efforts of Town officials and residents who have worked hard to preserve Brookline's values -- some being competing ones -- for this important property.

**Art. 16 - SUPPORT** – Electronic meeting agendas by-law: add documents to meeting notices – PAX-sponsored by-law amendment to require timely posting, in electronic form, of relevant documents to be discussed at meetings of Town bodies, increasing transparency and meaningful

citizen participation. The 2007 e-notice by-law was a PAX initiative, and this updates it so that citizens can easily see -- and understand -- the topics for meeting discussions, especially when public input is welcome (even by email). The by-law explicitly (§5) has no teeth; and we know it would take time for this further step, just as did 2007's first step -- now a big success. Numerous legitimate issues have been raised, but we believe they would be worked out with time and leadership from Town Hall -- where the idea has been well-received. We see no need to either (a) limit available documents to only those electronically sent to committee members, a gaping loophole, or (b) to study it further. Our motion is now even more flexible than the warrant article, and should be passed now. If in a year we have a modest percentage of what's "required" the public would benefit, and the percentage would steadily increase.

**Art. 18 - SUPPORT – Change the name of the Board of Selectmen, and its members, to gender neutral terms** - The motion(s) offered by Petitioner Michael Burstein (TMM-12), would change the name of the Board of Selectmen to "Select Board," and change its members either to "Select Board members" (Advisory version) or "Select Persons" (Selectmen's ), in general and zoning bylaws. PAX supports either alternative, and trusts TM's judgement.

**Art. 19 - SUPPORT – Urges gender neutral language in Town communications** - The motion(s) offered by Petitioner Alex Coleman, as a resolution, urges gender-neutral language, where appropriate and practicable, in Town communications. The only question is the same as Art. 18, the new name for Selectmen. Again, PAX supports either alternative.

**Art. 20 - SUPPORT – Resolution to Establish Indigenous Peoples Day in Brookline** - Art. 20 by TMM-3 Patricia Connors and TMM-15 (& PAX Board member) Kea Van der Ziel supports establishing Indigenous Peoples Day in Brookline, the 2nd Monday in October, replacing Columbus Day on the Town calendar. The intent is an Indigenous Peoples Day Committee to hold a celebration like MLK Day, to learn about the natives to this land before the European settlers, who still exist among us -- and to honor and celebrate their survival, cultures, and values. The resolution further urges the schools to observe this day, and to teach about the history, cultures and diversity of the Indigenous Peoples.

**Art. 21 - SUPPORT – Resolution honoring John Wilson** – former 50-year Brookline resident and a nationally recognized artist and sculptor. By TMM-6 (& PAX Board member) Tommy Vitolo and TMM-5 Rob Daves, it honors Wilson's life and legacy, a first step towards acquiring (with private funds) his sculpted bronze study of Martin Luther King, Jr., to be permanently displayed in the lobby of Town Hall, a reminder to all to strive for racial equity and all social justice.

**Art. 22 – SUPPORT PETITIONERS' MOTION – PAX-sponsored resolution urging Broad Sentencing Reform & Diversion** --- while supporting the current Senate criminal justice bill (S-2185) -- urging significant redirection of wasteful court and prison spending towards disgracefully underfunded prevention programs, and to lower our insidious racial disparities. No controversy in principle, but still differences between our motion -- now clearer than in the warrant -- and, respectfully, the recent watered-down alternative (changing some facts and deleting others as well as some forceful "sound bites") offered in good faith by some Selectmen and A/C members. PAX urges that the Goliath DAs' -- supported by Gov. Baker -- scare tactics and political clout cannot be combatted with David's (civility) sling-shot. You can't "fight fire with ... felicitousness." We welcome all questions about any facts or (alleged) "rhetoric."

**Please bring a copy of these PAX recommendations  
with you to Town Meeting.**