

8 Joe Lincoln Road
West Harwich, MA 02671
July 9, 2023

Mr. David Nixon, Chair
Community Preservation Committee
Town Hall
732 Main Street
Harwich, MA 02645

Dear Mr. Nixon:

I recently received the agenda for the July 13, CPC meeting which I will not be able to attend. But I do have some thoughts that I would like to add to the Public Comments portion of the meeting. These are my personal opinions and in no way am I speaking for Chase Library.

I would like to comment on the following, if that is appropriate:

IV New Business:

B. Discussion: Option to have all CPA projects listed in one warrant article for the 2024 Annual Town Meeting

I am registering my firm objection to the concept of bundling all CPA projects into one warrant for presentation to the taxpayers at the annual Town Meeting. My reasons for opposing bundling are these:

- A single warrant forces a single vote.
 - This diminishes a taxpayer vote from the total number of projects to only one vote.
 - This may result in less desirable projects being passed so that desirable projects are approved OR just the opposite – one or more projects that would benefit the community may fail because there are other projects the taxpayers do not deem worthy.
 - Bundling of projects into one warrant can be perceived as weakening a voter's rights.
- The CPA has established four very distinct categories under which funds may be dispersed toward worthy projects.
 - If bundling projects into one warrant is insisted upon by town administrators, at the very least, CPA articles should be grouped in kind according to the categories outlined in the act. That would at the very least allow four votes per person.
 - I would argue that the bundling of warrants does not appreciably shorten town meeting as evidenced by last year's meeting.

I believe that over the years, the CPC has done a very good job of asking the difficult questions and thoroughly vetting each project that has been proposed. Town Meeting is a time to hear from the CPC, FinCom and the Select Board. It is up to the people of Harwich to determine the outcomes.

Thank you very much for your consideration of this letter.

Pattie Tworek