

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

2013 SPECIAL TOWN MEETING

Tuesday, May 7, 2013 @ 8:15 P.M.

RICHARD J. COLLINS FIELD HOUSE

ANDOVER HIGH SCHOOL

To the Citizens of Andover

There will be a Special Town Meeting at 8:15 P.M. on Tuesday, May 7, 2013, the second night of the Annual Town Meeting.

This Special Town "Meeting within a Meeting" is being held to address a matter which arose after the regular Town Meeting warrant was closed.

At the 1974 Annual Town Meeting, the Town of Andover voted to accept a gift from the Wood family, and established the Wood Family Trust. A portion of that trust was to be used "for exclusively public purposes".

If passed, Articles 1 and 2 would divide the trust assets into two equal parts. Article 1 would fund a new Elder Services Program Stabilization Fund to be administered by the Council on Aging. Article 2 would appropriate funds to pay for expenses associated with the construction of the Youth Center. Because the Wood Family Trust already exists, approval of these articles neither increases taxes nor reduces operating budgets, nor does it require bonding.

The balance in the trust as of this writing is \$1,306,748.

The Finance Committee

S. Jon Stumpf, Chairman

Mary O'Donoghue, Vice Chairman
Mark Merritt
Margaret N. Kruse
Gregory A. Serrao

Joanne F. Marden
Paul Fortier
Linn N. Anderson
Eugenie M. Moffitt

ELDER SERVICES PROGRAM STABILIZATION FUND

ARTICLE 1. To see if the Town will vote (1) to create a Stabilization Fund titled "Elder Services Program Stabilization Fund" in accordance with M.G. L. Chapter 40, Section 5B for the purpose of supplementing, not supplanting, the Elder Services operating budget but only for the development and implementation of new programs, services and activities as recommended by the Division of Elder of Services and approved by the Town Manager. Appropriations from this account are restricted to interest only and may not be used for the payment of full-time or part-time salaries or to supplant the operating budget; and (2) to appropriate and transfer a sum of money from the Cornelius Wood Trust Fund to the foregoing Stabilization Fund, or take any other action related thereto.

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As part of a collaborative effort to provide for the needs of both youth and seniors in the community, this article transfers funds from the Wood Trust into a newly established special stabilization fund for elder services and programs. As recommended by the Town Manager, only the interest earned by the fund each year would be available to fund special services and programs not part of the ordinary budget of the Elder Services Department. Appropriations each year from the fund would require a 2/3 vote of Town Meeting. Because the Wood Fund already exists, approval of this article neither increases taxes nor reduces operating budgets, nor does it require bonding. However; approval will provide a permanent fund for expanding services to Andover's rapidly growing senior population.

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The BOARD OF SELECTMEN will make its recommendation at Town Meeting. YES ___

The FINANCE COMMITTEE recommends approval. NO ___

On request of the Council on Aging Board and the Youth Center Building Committee

YOUTH CENTER APPROPRIATION

ARTICLE 2. To see if the Town will vote to transfer a sum of money from the Cornelius Wood Trust Fund and appropriate a sum of money for the design, construction and furnishing of a Youth Center behind the Doherty Middle School on Bartlet Street including the payment of costs of a related parking area and all other costs incidental or related thereto, or take any other action related thereto.

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This article provides funding to help accomplish phase two of the Cormier Youth Center building project. Completing both phases at the same time may help hold down the overall cost of the project. Because the Wood Trust Fund is an existing town fund, this appropriation will not add to the tax rate, will not impact operating budgets, and will not require bonding. The completed Cormier Youth Center will provide facilities not only for youth, but also for seniors and other community groups.

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The BOARD OF SELECTMEN will make its recommendation at Town Meeting. YES ___

The FINANCE COMMITTEE recommends approval. NO ___

On request of the Council on Aging Board and the Youth Center Building Committee
