

CREATE STORMWATER FUND

ARTICLE 16. To determine whether the Town will (1) adopt a bylaw creating said Stormwater Enterprise Fund for the purpose of setting, assessing, and collecting fees for the support of stormwater infrastructure and management throughout the Town, such fund to be managed by the Public Works Commission and the Department of Public Works under the direction of the Town Manager; and (2) accept the provisions of Mass. Gen. Laws. Chapter 44, § 53F½ and authorize the establishment of a Stormwater Enterprise Fund, effective July 1, 2025; or take any other action relative thereto.

This article authorizes the Town to create a fund to account for the revenues and expenditures of all operations and activities for Stormwater Management. Since 2003, the Town has been required to comply with the requirements of the General Permit for Small Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (MS4 General Permit). This is a federal permit with no current dedicated funding source. Establishment of a Stormwater Fund would allow for a consistent and stable revenue stream to fund permit compliance, which focuses on improving water quality within the Town's receiving waters. This fund would also allow the Town to dedicate resources to flood mitigation and overall stormwater management, and to prepare for extreme storm events which are occurring with greater frequency.

The text of the proposed bylaw creating the Stormwater Management Fund will be presented at the Enterprise Fund hearing before the Finance Committee. If the town adopts the proposed bylaw, the Public Works Commission will develop for presentation to 2025 Annual Town Meeting a budget and a program of user fees to be paid by all properties with impervious surfaces to cover stormwater management. 2026 Annual Town Meeting will be asked to appropriate the necessary funding from the Stormwater Fund to cover Fiscal Year 2026 stormwater expenses.