



# *Town of Hooksett*

## WARRANT ARTICLE REQUEST FORM

Revised 1/31/2024

**Date of Request:** 7/5/2023

**Date of Town Meeting:** March 2024

**Name of Department Submitting Request:**

**1. Please provide the wording of the proposed article.**

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$30,000.00** to be added to the Conservation Land Improvements Capital Reserve Fund previously established. The estimated tax rate impact is \$0.01. Recommended by Town Council (6 Yes – 0 No); Recommended by Budget Committee (6 Yes – 4 No).

**2. Voters' Guide Explanation.**

There was \$62,211.03 in the account as of December 31, 2023. Approximately \$36,000.00 will be needed to place a conservation easement on additional Town property. The fund is to plan for and support improvements and developments that may be needed for all of the conservation lands and easements currently held by the Town. The Conservation Commission has acquired over 1,294 acres of land to be used for passive recreational purposes. The conservation easements pertaining to such property require the Town to maintain the property and make repairs or improvements, as necessary. Additionally, the stewardship of the Town's conservation properties requires the maintenance of existing trails and development of new trails. In order to meet this legal obligation, it is necessary for us to continue to fund a capital reserve fund to ensure not only that the Town will be prepared for any planned or unexpected maintenance issues, but to continue developing trails so the public may enjoy the conserved lands.

**3. If this article is not passed at Town Meeting or approved by the Town Council, what affect would this have on your department goals and programs?**

Without the funding, the Conservation Commission will have difficulty meeting its legal obligations to maintain current conserved property, including existing trails, as well as continuing to develop new access and trails.

**4. Is any further information necessary for the deliberation?**

This reserved was established in 2016 and has funded the following items:

- FY 2021-22 \$20,950 for Merrimack Riverfront Trail and \$10,500 for student conservation project.
- FY 2022-23 \$3,900 Invasive species plant removal.
- FY 2023-24 \$20,000 Merrimack Riverfront Trail P4.