ADVISORY BOARD BYLAW

(HISTORY: Adopted by Annual Town Meeting 03/12/1952; Replaces Bylaw repealed by ATM 5/13/2013 Approved by the Attorney General 09/13/2013. Section 1 approved by ATM 5/15/21, Article 22, approved by the Attorney General in portion on 8/30/21)

§1. There shall be an Advisory Board consisting of six legal voters of the town, each of whom shall be elected for a term of three (3) years on the Official Ballot of the Annual Town Meeting. No elective town officer shall be eligible or qualified to serve on said Board. An affirmative vote of the Board shall require a majority of the members present and voting at a meeting, but in no event less than three (3) **[Amended 5-15-21]**

§2. Upon election, the term of office of any such elected member shall commence immediately upon qualification and shall expire at the close of final adjournment of the annual town meeting and election at which his or her successor is elected. Said Board shall choose its own officers, all of whom shall serve without pay, and it shall cause to be kept a true record of its proceedings.

§3. Any vacancy which may occur in the membership of the Board shall be filled in the manner prescribed under the Massachusetts General Laws.

§4. All articles in any warrant for a town meeting shall be referred to the Advisory Board for its consideration**.** The selectmen after drawing any such warrant shall transmit immediately a copy thereof to each member of said Board. A public hearing shall be held at least one (1) week before such a town meeting upon all such articles, notice of which shall be given by posting a copy thereof in at least 2 public places in the town not less than forty-eight (48) hours prior to said hearing. Said Board shall, after due consideration of the subject matter of such articles, report thereon to the town meeting such recommendations as it deems best for the interests of the town and its citizens. Provided that, nothing in this section shall be deemed to prohibit or invalidate any article, or vote duly taken thereunder, lawfully included or enacted in any Annual or Special Town Meeting, notwithstanding a failure of compliance with this section.

§5. It shall be the duty of the Advisory Board annually to consider the expenditures in previous years and the estimated requirements of the ensuing year of the several boards, officers and committees of the town, as prepared by them or by the Town Accountant in such form and detail as may be prescribed by said Board. The said Board shall add to such statement of expenditures and estimates another column, giving the amounts which in its opinion should be appropriated for the ensuing year, and shall further add thereto such explanations and suggestions relating to the proposed appropriations as it may deem expedient.

§6. In the discharge of its duty, said Board shall have free access to all books of record and accounts, bills and vouchers on which money has been paid or may be paid from the town treasury. Officers, boards and committees of the town shall upon request, where not prohibited by law, furnish said Board with facts, figures and any other information pertaining to their several activities.

§7. It shall be the duty of the Advisory Board to make an annual report of its doings, which includes recommendations relative to financial matters and the conduct of the town business, to be contained in the annual town report.

§8. The term, "Advisory Board" as used herein, shall for all purposes be deemed to include the terms, "Advisory Committee," "Finance Committee," "Fincom," "Finance Board," or any other term or phrase ordinarily and traditionally employed to refer to the entity in Dunstable contemplated under G.L. c. 39, §16, as amended."