

ARTICLE 44 – Climate Action Plan Committee Consultant

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, and/or transfer from available funds in the Treasury, if any, or borrow a sufficient sum of money not to exceed ~~\$100,000~~ \$50,000 for the purposes of hiring a consultant to assist the Committee in research, analysis, strategic planning, and preparation of a written report and recommendation outlining how the Town can efficiently minimize greenhouse gas emissions and other activity that contributes to climate change, and develop preparedness plans to protect the citizens of the Town, which appropriation ~~may be supplemented by any Federal and/or State grant monies and/or used to contribute matching funds toward any such grant, or take any other action relative thereto shall be necessary in the event that the Town’s application for a Planning Assistance Grant in 2024 from the Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (“EEA”) is denied.~~

Requested by: Stoughton Climate Action Plan Committee

Inserted by: The Select Board

Date: ~~May 9, February 6,~~ 2024

Estimated Cost: up to ~~\$100,000~~ \$50,000

PROPOSED MOTION. I move that the Town vote to appropriate ~~\$100,000~~ \$50,000 for the purposes of hiring a consultant or consultants to assist the Climate Action Plan Committee in research, analysis, strategic planning, and preparation of a written report and recommendation outlining how the Town can efficiently minimize greenhouse gas emissions and other activity that contributes to climate change, and develop preparedness plans to protect the citizens of the Town; said hiring and expenditures to be subject to approval by the Town Manager, and further to authorize the Climate Action Plan Committee together with the Town Manager to apply for and receive any available grants, including from EEA, which may render this appropriation unnecessary ~~which may supplement said appropriation and/or contribute to matching funds toward any such grant~~; and to meet this appropriation that ~~\$100,000~~ \$50,000 be transferred from Free Cash.

EXPLANATION. In alignment with the Commonwealth of Massachusetts’s climate goals, and the 2023 Annual Town Meeting Vote approving Article 71, the

goal of Stoughton's climate action plan would be to recommend that ~~for~~ the Town ~~to~~ reach net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050 or sooner. Expert assistance is critical in order to determine cost-effective steps needed to achieve emissions reduction targets, as well as to undertake climate adaptation measures. Threshold grant support from the Metropolitan Area Planning Council ("MAPC") has been awarded, with MAPC advising that the Town also seek an EEA Planning Assistance Grant.