

**Chapter 7
BOARDS, COMMITTEES AND COMMISSIONS**

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[HISTORY: Adopted by the Annual Town Meeting of the Town of Peterborough: Art. I, 3-8-1966 as Art. 14; Art. II, 3-12-1968 as Art. 23; Art. III, 3-17-1987 as Arts. 35 and 36; Art. IV, 3-18-1989 as Art. 33; Art. V, 3-18-1989 as Art. 34; Art. IX, 3-18-1995 as Art. 31 Amendments noted where applicable.]

General References

See A253.

See A254.

Memorandum of Understanding — See Ch. 160; Art. II
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**GENERAL REFERENCES
Planning agencies — See Ch. 34.**

**ARTICLE VIII
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§ 7-10. Establishment; membership; appointment; terms; functions.

ARTICLE I

Conservation Commission

[Adopted by ATM 3-18-1966 as Art. 14]

§ 7-1. Appointment.

The town accepts the provisions of RSA 36-A to authorize the Selectmen to appoint a Conservation Commission.

ARTICLE II

Park and Recreation Committee

[Adopted by ATM 3-12-1968 as Art. 23]

§ 7-2. Establishment; membership; terms.

The town supplants the Adams Playground Committee with a Recreation Committee, to consist of five (5) members to be elected for terms of three (3) years, whose first members shall be the then members of the Adams Playground Committee serving out their elected terms.

ARTICLE III

Historic District Commission

[Adopted by ATM 3-17-1987 as Arts. 35 and 36]

§ 7-3. Establishment.

The town establishes an Historic District Commission in accordance with RSA 672:677.

§ 7-4. Appointment; membership.

The town authorizes the Board of Selectmen to appoint seven (7) citizens to the Historic District Commission, pursuant to the provisions of RSA 673:4 and 673:5.

ARTICLE V

Committee on the Elderly

[Adopted by ATM 3-18-1989 as Art. 33]

§ 7-5. Establishment; membership; appointment; terms; functions.

The town establishes a Committee on the Elderly with seven (7) members, appointed by the Selectmen, for staggered three-year terms, to study the needs and problems of our elderly residents, make recommendations on addressing those needs and problems by the town, public agencies and private organizations and to coordinate efforts to address those needs and problems.

ARTICLE VI

Affordable Housing Committee

[Adopted by ATM 3-18-1989 as Art. 34]

§ 7-6. Establishment; membership; appointment; terms; functions.

The town, recognizing the decreasing supply of affordable housing to our families and neighbors as a problem requiring community action, establishes an Affordable Housing Committee, with five (5) members appointed by the Selectmen, for staggered three-year terms, to investigate and make recommendations on affordable housing, to encourage and if possible initiate the construction of such housing and to coordinate efforts to provide such housing.

ARTICLE VII

Budget Committee Charter

[Adopted by ATM 1993]

§ 7-7. Establishment; membership; appointment; terms; functions.

To see if the Town will vote to revise the Charter of the Advisory Budget Committee as follows:

- A. The Peterborough Budget Committee shall be composed of nine members elected to three-year terms. If a member resigns before his or her term expires, the Board of Selectmen shall appoint a replacement to serve until the next Town Meeting. The voters will elect a replacement to fulfill the term at the next Town election, if said
- B. The nine elected members shall, on an annual basis, elect a chairperson, vice-chairperson, and a secretary from among themselves.
- C. A quorum of five members is required for the Budget Committee to conduct a meeting.
- D. The Budget Committee should be informed of any article requiring its attention thirty days prior to any Town Meeting, but no less than one week prior to said meeting. In order to allow the Budget Committee sufficient time to evaluate and advise on the upcoming budget, the Board of Selectmen shall present a budget request for the ensuing year to the Budget Committee no later than January 1st of each year.

It shall be the duty of the Budget Committee to:

1. Explain the tax impact of monies raised at each Town Meeting.
 2. Review and evaluate warrant articles based on short and long term ramifications, and make recommendations pertaining to same.
 3. Withhold recommendations only if there is insufficient information.
- E. The Board of Selectmen, the Budget Committee, and department heads shall be required to work cooperatively with each other to ensure that all the respective budgets will best serve the community's needs.
 - F. The Board of Selectmen and the Budget Committee shall meet jointly to evaluate the recommendations of the department heads, and for any discussions involving any budgetary matters related to the upcoming budget. Subsequent to the presentation of recommendations by the department head, the Board of Selectmen and the Budget Committee will meet in joint session to discuss their respective recommendations. Both Boards should identify those areas of the budget where there is agreement, resolve those issues where a compromise can be reached, and advise each other of any differences that will be presented at Town Meeting.
 - G. The Budget Committee shall report, in writing, any and all warrant articles and operating budget recommendations no later than two weeks prior to Town Meeting. This written report shall include:
 1. The total amount requested by the Board of Selectmen for any given warrant article.
 2. The total amount recommended by the Budget Committee for the same articles.
 3. The tax impact of both recommendations.
 4. The reason(s) for the Budget Committee's recommendations. Further, the Board of Selectmen shall be notified of any and all relevant Budget Committee recommendations as soon as such recommendations are finalized, but no later than two weeks prior to the Town Meeting.
 - H. The Budget Committee recommendations shall be made available to any and all interested persons at the Town Office, the Town Library, and again at the voter check-in table during the Town Meeting.
 - I. Being a public body, the Budget Committee is subject to the Right-To-Know Law (RSA:91) and is required to conduct all of its meetings in a manner which is open to the public; post notice of its meetings; keep minutes of its meetings and have those minutes available for public inspection in the Selectmen's Office within 144 hours of its meetings; or take any other action relating thereto. (Supported by Selectmen.)

ARTICLE VIII

Heritage Committee

[Adopted by ATM of the Town of Peterborough: Art. 1, 3-17-01 as Art. 16; Art. II, 3-18-01 as Art. 17]

§ 7-8. Establishment.

The Town authorizes the establishment of a Heritage Commission in accordance with the provisions of RSA 673 and 674, or take any action relating thereto.

§ 7-9. Appointment; membership.

The Town authorizes the Board of Selectmen to appoint citizens as members of the Heritage Commission pursuant to the provisions of RSA 673:4-a and 673:5, or take any other action relating thereto.

ARTICLE IX

Economic Development Authority (EDA)
[Adopted by ATM 3-18-1995 as Art. 31]

§ 7-10. Establishment; membership; appointment; terms; functions.

The Town authorizes the establishment of an Economic Development Authority as granted by Senate Bill 196 and authorized under RSA 162-G:2, RSA 35-A:42 and RSA 53-A:3 for the purposes of promoting economic development and entering into agreements with other towns in the area to create a Regional Economic Development Authority; further, to see if the Town will raise and appropriate the sum of Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.) for initial funding of said Economic Development Authority, or take any other action relating thereto.