

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

TOWN OF CHATHAM
SPECIAL TOWN MEETING WARRANT
MONDAY, JANUARY 25, 2010

Article 2 - Marconi Station Site Improvements

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate and/or transfer from available funds a sum of money it determines necessary to fund site improvements to create a new entry road, parking areas, associated drainage and utilities at the former Marconi-RCA site in Chathamport in the vicinity of the Operations Building (847 Orleans Road) and the Hotel building (831 Orleans Road) in order to facilitate the creation of the Chatham Marconi Maritime Center, or take any other action in relation thereto.

(Community Preservation Committee)

Motion: By Robert Oliver, Community Preservation Committee
I move that the Town vote to transfer the sum of \$408,730 from the Community Preservation Fund balance in order to fund site improvements to create a new entry road, parking areas, associated drainage and utilities at the former Marconi-RCA site in Chathamport in the vicinity of the Operations Building (847 Orleans Road) and the Hotel building (831 Orleans Road) in order to facilitate the creation of the Chatham Marconi Maritime Center.

Speaker: Robert Oliver, Community Preservation Committee

Explanation: *The Town has diligently pursued appropriate building reuse scenarios for the former Marconi-RCA Wireless Receiving Station which will culminate in a long-term lease with the Chatham Marconi Maritime Center (CMMC), enabling the creation of a museum in the Operations Building. The CMMC will showcase the Station's historical importance to both the local and national public, given its significance in the development and then practical implementation of worldwide wireless communication, which resulted in Chatham being a major listening post during WWII, and the busiest ship-to-shore communication link in the Western Hemisphere during the post-war period. The CMMC plans to open the museum in 2010. Extensive rehabilitation to the exterior facades of the four brick buildings on the campus, funded by a previous CPA article passed by Town Meeting in 2007, has been completed, bringing the restoration of the facility to an appropriate level of historical consistency. This article would enable the Town to make the necessary site improvements including creating a new entry way, parking areas, associated drainage and utilities in order to facilitate the creation of the CMMC, or indeed, any other use of the Operations and Hotel buildings.*

Board of Selectmen Recommendation: 3-2-0

Finance Committee Recommendation: 7-0-0

Community Preservation Committee: Approve 7-0-0

Article 2 was approved almost unanimously.