

**Special Town Meeting - October 16, 2023**

**Article 6 - Fund Economic and Environmental Initiatives**

**The Finance Committee Vote was 5-2-0**

**On Behalf of the Finance Committee "Nay" Votes: Ed Mahoney**

I opposed this Article for the following reasons:

- Why is the Town in the electricity distribution business for electric vehicles ("EVs")? If it were economically feasible, the private sector would be installing EV chargers.
- Electric vehicles are not green.
  - The electricity they run on is generated by fossil fuel-powered plants. The vast majority of our electric power comes from oil, gas and nuclear-powered generators. EVs are not green.
  - The power grid can barely handle current demand. Adding additional demand will exacerbate deficiencies and cause electricity interruptions more broadly.
  - The rare earth mineral mining operations required for EV batteries and components are environmental and ecological disasters. Have you seen photos of the strip mines, typically in foreign countries, seeking these rare earth minerals? The tailings from these mines are dumped in local rivers and lakes, polluting the waters.
  - Going green is a huge geo-political risk. Ceding the sourcing of critical resources to nations that disagree with political aspirations is economically and existentially dangerous.