

Article

Planning for March Town and School Meetings

A working group of Town and School officials has again been meeting to discuss options for our upcoming Town and School Meetings. Based on currently available information, the working group, Board of Selectmen, and School Board have made tentative decisions as to how our Town and School Meetings voting days and business meetings will be conducted this year.

Because the 2021 Town and School elections went well and COVID persists, we will use a similar voting set-up and similar social distancing and health protocols for the official ballot voting portion of our Town and School Meetings. This voting will occur as usual on Tuesday, March 8, 2022 at the Community Center with the polls open from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. The Town Business Meeting will be held on the evening of Wednesday, March 9, 2022 and the School Business Meeting will be held on the evening of Friday, March 11, 2022.

The Town and School business meetings will be held in a social distancing format at Bow High School. The High School auditorium will be the primary room for the business meetings, but voters will be seated so that they are appropriately socially distanced from all other voters who are not part of their family group or “bubble”. In addition, remote rooms will be set up with socially distanced seating and connections to the Auditorium. An Assistant Moderator will be present in each of the remote rooms, and voters in the remote rooms will be able to participate in the meetings. Voters in the remote rooms will vote in place and the Assistant Moderators will report the results of the individual rooms’ voting to the Moderator in the Auditorium.

Voter check-in will be set up in such a way as to appropriately separate voters and to protect the poll workers. Student volunteers will be on hand to escort voters to the remote rooms, should that be necessary. In addition, floor plans showing the locations of the remote rooms, as well as the locations of available bathrooms, will be available.

On both the official ballot voting day, and at the business meetings, all participants and voters will be requested to wear masks. Any voters who refuse to or are unable to wear masks at the business meetings will be seated separately. In addition, we will ask all officials, workers and voters to self-screen consistent with current Federal and State Guidelines prior to the meeting, and to refrain from attending if they pose a risk to others. The two business meetings will also be live-streamed on YouTube so that anyone can watch the proceedings (though not participate) from their homes.

Finally, both the Town and the School Moderators retain the authority to postpone either their official ballot voting days or their business meetings if the conditions deteriorate

between now and March such that, in their opinion, the voting day or the meetings should be postponed.

Voters who have questions concerning Town and School Meetings should feel to contact members of the Board of Selectmen, or the Town Moderator with respect to the Town Meeting, or the members of the School Board or the School Moderator with respect to the School Meeting.

Submitted by

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