

HOPKINTON TOWN COUNCIL MEETING – February 21, 2023
BUSINESS AGENDA
Town Hall, 1 Town House Road, Hopkinton, RI 02833

**NOTICE
HYBRID MEETING BEING HELD IN PERSON AND REMOTE**

Understanding the people have a vested interest in the operation of their government, the Hopkinton Town Council intends to include the public on February 21, 2023. However, due to the COVID-19 virus, the Council wants to be sure that everyone can do so safely from their own homes. Therefore, this hybrid meeting will be held in person and remotely using Zoom.

To get the most out of the hybrid meeting technology, participants can join by computer when possible. Joining by computer allows you to see the Town Council members on-screen and makes it easier to use the functions for indicating you wish to speak and muting/un-muting yourself.

To attend the meeting remotely, please connect in by 7:00 PM. **Note:** Participants will not be able to connect before the host begins the session, and anyone trying to connect who are unable to do so should try again after 7:00 PM.

You are invited to a Zoom webinar.

When: February 21, 2023, 07:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Topic: Town Council Meeting – February 21, 2023 - Hybrid

REMOTE MEETING ACCESS:

Please click the link below to join the webinar:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86329280151?pwd=YmJURXlZU1ZPVVEtYTnYzMmFBK2UwQT09>

Meeting ID: 863 2928 0151

Passcode: 188374

Dial-In: 1-312-626-6799

****Citizens wishing to speak during public forum:**

Any participants wishing to speak during the public forum should indicate so as early as possible. The Zoom meeting has a 'Raise your hand' indicator that you enable to let the host know you wish to speak.

To 'Raise your hand' in Zoom:

By Computer:

Click "raise hand" from the Zoom menu bar and wait for the meeting host to ask you to unmute. Once asked to unmute, press "unmute" to unmute and speak.

By Phone:

Dial *9 to "raise your hand" and wait for the meeting host to ask you to unmute. Once asked to unmute, dial *6 to unmute and speak.

"Please remember when making a public comment to state your name and address before speaking."

Please note: Because of ever-changing regulations due to the COVID-19 virus, this meeting may be cancelled. Please check the Town of Hopkinton website www.hopkintonri.org for updates on these meetings and other important Town or COVID-19 information.

Marita D. Murray, CMC
Council Clerk/Town Clerk

"Please remember when making comments to state your name before speaking."

6:45 P.M. Recess to Executive Session under:

1. RIGL sec. 42-46-5(a)(1) - Interviews: Boards & Commissions: Tax Board of Review.

Reconvene in Open Session.

Statement by the Council President that no votes were taken in Executive Session.

Consider and vote on Motion to Seal the minutes of the Executive Session.

7:00 P.M. Call to Order – Moment of silent meditation and a salute to the Flag.

ROLL CALL

PUBLIC COMMENT

APPROVAL OF AGENDA ORDER

CONSENT AGENDA

Approve Town Council Meeting Minutes of February 6, 2023; Approve Town Council Meeting Executive Session Minutes of February 6, 2023; Accept the following monthly financial/activity report: Town Clerk.

MOTION TO APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA

VACANCIES AND APPOINTMENTS

1. Discuss, consider and possibly vote to appoint Robert Marvel to the Communications Committee.
2. Discuss, consider and possibly vote to accept the resignation of Michael Brocato from the Tax Board of Review.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Discuss, consider and possibly vote to approve a Resolution regarding Land Use and Low- and Moderate-Income Housing. See attached.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Discussion regarding the Hopkinton Conservation Commission.

PUBLIC COMMENT

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Recess to Executive Session under:

1. RIGL sec. 42-46-5 (a)(2) - Litigation.

Reconvene in Open Session.

Statement by the Council President that no votes were taken in Executive Session.

Consider and vote on Motion to Seal the minutes of the Executive Session.

ADJOURNMENT

If communication assistance (readers/interpreters/captions) is needed or any other accommodation to ensure equal participation by any person, please contact the Town Clerk's Office at 377-7777 (V) or 377-7773 (TDD) at least two (2) business days prior to the meeting.

Posting Details: Town Hall, Hopkinton Post Office, Hopkinton Website, Secretary of State Website.
Posting date: February 16, 2023

RESOLUTION OF THE HOPKINTON TOWN COUNCIL
IN SUPPORT OF HOUSING DEVELOPMENT & LAND USE

WHEREAS, Housing continues to be a priority at all levels of government in Rhode Island; and

WHEREAS, Municipal leaders stand together in welcoming the development of responsible housing in our communities and are interested in working with stakeholders across the state to improve housing opportunities for Rhode Islanders; and

WHEREAS, Local leaders agree zoning and land use should remain a local decision; and

WHEREAS, as members of the Rhode Island League of Cities and Towns, we supported the establishment of both the Land-Use and Low- and Moderate-Income Housing study commissions to identify ways to help cities and towns meet their obligations under the Low- and Moderate-Income Housing Act to ensure that at least 10% of their housing stock qualifies as affordable; and

WHEREAS, there have been challenges with implementing changes to state law that were approved in the last legislative session; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council of the Town of Hopkinton strongly encourages the state to work with cities and towns to encourage housing construction and rehabilitation, and remove barriers to housing, such as infrastructure improvements; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, to accomplish our housing goals, municipalities need the following:

- A clear menu of innovative solutions and funding opportunities from the state that can be implemented during the winter season.
- Increased funding for infrastructure improvements and remediation, outside of federal aid opportunities.
- To preserve and promote quality of life, based on the different communities' needs and respect the local voice in land use decisions.
- Funding the implementation of programs and systems to support process improvements.
- Increased technical support and adequate funding to departments and agencies that facilitate housing growth, including the Division of Statewide Planning and Department of Housing.
- Workforce development to expand the pool of municipal planners and building and zoning officials.
- Adequate state and education aid to support the needs of residents.
- A commitment to expanding reliable transportation opportunities for residents, extending the urban service boundary; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, both Commissions ensure that they will listen to municipal leaders regarding these meaningful policy changes so they can be implemented and enforced at the local level; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town Council of the Town of Hopkinton supports the housing and land use needs identified by the Rhode Island League of Cities and Towns referenced above.