



Town of Arlington

John D. Leone, Moderator

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September 15, 2021

William Hayner, School Committee, Chair
whayner@arlington.k12.ma.us

Rachel Zsembery, Redevelopment Board, Chair
rzsembery@town.arlington.ma.us

Disability Commission, c/o Michael Rademacher
DisabilityComm@town.arlington.ma.us

Adam Chapdelaine, Town Manager
achapdelaine@town.arlington.ma.us

Re: Remote Participation Study Committee

Dear Messrs. Hayner, Rademacher and Chapdelaine and Ms. Zsembery:

Article 20 of the 2021 Annual Town Meeting established the Remote Participation Study Committee (RPSC), attached please find a copy of Article 20. You or your Committee have an appointee to the RPSC.

I have made my appointments as have the Select Board. I have Appointed Mr. Mustafa Varoglu as Organizational Chair for this Committee. I request that you please designate your appointee at your next meeting and advise myself and Mr. Varoglu.

The first meeting is scheduled for September 29th, at 7:30 p.m. via Zoom. You will receive additional information regarding that meeting shortly. Mr. Chapdelaine if you would be so kind as to assist Mr. Varoglu and I in scheduling that meeting on the town's Zoom account it would be appreciated.

Sincerely

John D. Leone

cc: Mr. Mustafa Varoglu
Mr. Eric Helmuth, Select Board Designee



JULIANA H. BRAZILE
TOWN CLERK

OFFICE OF THE TOWN CLERK
TOWN OF ARLINGTON
730 MASSACHUSETTS AVENUE
ARLINGTON, MA 02476

TELEPHONE
(781) 316-3070

ARTICLE 20

VOTE/PUBLIC REMOTE PARTICIPATION

VOTED: YES – 230, NO - 6

That Town Meeting hereby establishes a Remote Participation Study Committee to be structured, organized, and charged as follows:

Remote Participation Study Committee

1. Committee Membership and Organization

A. The Committee shall consist of nine (9) members:

- One (1) member of the Select Board, or their designee
- One (1) member of the School Committee, or their designee
- One (1) member of the ARB, or their designee;
- The Town Manager or their designee;
- One (1) member of the Disability Commission, or their designee; and
- Four (4) Town Meeting Members appointed by the Moderator.

B. The Town Moderator or their designee shall serve as chair of the committee for the purposes of the Committee's first organizational meeting, in which the Committee may elect officers as it deems appropriate.

2. Committee Charge

The Committee is charged with comprehensively examining options and requirements for providing remote participation through video-conferencing or other similar technology in public meetings under ordinary conditions where, among other things, the Open Meeting Law will require in-person attendance by public body members in a physical location. The Committee's study shall include, but not be limited to:

- A. Evaluating the benefits and challenges of providing hybrid forms of public meetings;
- B. Assessing which public bodies can and should provide remote participation;
- C. Examining what portions of meetings can and should be available for remote participation;
- D. Determining what, if any, local rules beyond legal requirements can and should be established for remote participation;
- E. Understanding the costs of different models of remote participation, especially hybrid remote participation;
- F. Evaluating the impact of remote participation on accessibility requirements and concerns.

G. Assessing ways that public bodies provide information to the public about their work.

3. Committee Reports

A. The Committee shall provide a report to the Town Clerk and the Select Board on or before January 15, 2022 to:

i. Make ranked recommendations with respect to remote participation policies in the Town of Arlington; and

ii. Offer any recommended Town Meeting warrant articles for inclusion on the 2022 Annual Town Meeting Warrant; and

iii. Offer any recommended actions that the Select Board can immediately take under its own authority that do not require the necessity of a bylaw or the additional appropriation of funds not available in the current budget.

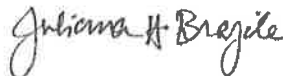
B. The Committee shall provide a final report to the 2022 Town Meeting on all of the subjects listed herein.

4. Dissolution

Absent a vote of a future Town Meeting to maintain it, the Committee shall dissolve following the close of the 2023 Annual Town Meeting.

**A true copy of the vote under
Article 20 of the Warrant for the
Annual Town Meeting of the
Town of Arlington at the session
held April 28, 2021.**

ATTEST:



Town Clerk