

PUBLIC MEETING REMOTE PARTICIPATION GUIDELINES

Pursuant to Governor Baker's March 12, 2020 Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L. c. 30A, §18, and the Governor's March 15, 2020 Order imposing strict limitations on the number of people that may gather in one place, the Town of Grafton Planning Board conducted their public meetings and hearings solely via remote participation. On February 15, 2022, Governor Baker signed into law, Chapter 22 of the Acts of 2022, extending the Governor's March 12, 2020, Executive Order Suspending Certain Provision of the Open Meeting Law until July 15, 2022.

Currently, the Planning Board is holding hybrid meetings, i.e., the meetings are conducted both in-person and remotely, allowing members of the public to choose their method of participation

Remote Access to Public Meetings

Zoom Video Communications, Inc. ("Zoom") will be used for remote conferencing services to allow for remote access to public meetings. Access numbers and web addresses will be provided as part of each meeting's agenda posted to the town calendar on the homepage of Grafton's website, www.grafton-ma.gov.

Meetings can be accessed from your personal computer, cellphone and/or telephone. It is anticipated that Planning Board meetings will continue to be broadcasted by Grafton Access Television through Zoom's "Record" feature.

Protocols for Remote Public Meetings

- All participants entering the meeting via a personal computer ("computer participants") are required to rename themselves with their official first and last name.
- Computer participants are encouraged to click on the "Participants" feature in Zoom to view all participants and to view/use the "Chat" and "Raise Hand" features.
- Computer participants may "Pin" to a particular video screen.
 - It is recommended to "Pin" to Christopher McGoldrick, Town Planner. This can be done by right clicking over the three (3) dots symbol in the top right corner of Christopher's video screen.
- The Chairman will identify him or herself.
- The Chairman will conduct a roll call of the Board.
- The Chairman will call the meeting to order.
- All participants (excluding Board members) will be muted throughout the meeting and must use the chat feature.
- All participants are required to include their name and address when using the chat feature to pose a question through the Chairman.

- All documents displayed throughout the meeting will be controlled by the Town Planner.
 - Only computer participants will be able to view documents.
- If and when the Chairman allows for public comments/questions, it will be conducted in the following sequence:
 - 1. The Chairman will read public comments/questions received in advance of the meeting followed by real-time Board and/or applicant responses.
 - 2. The Chairman will read real-time comments/questions typed by computer participants in the “Chat” feature followed by real-time Board and/or applicant responses.
 - Computer participants must click on “Chat” to enter their comment/question.
 - The “To:” setting must be set to “Everyone” or the public comment will not be recognized by the Board.
 - 3. The Chairman will ask if any other participants accessing the meeting have comments/questions.
- Board members needing to be recused at any point during the course of a meeting will be placed in a virtual “Waiting Room” by the Town Planner.