

DRAFT SCRIPT FOR REMOTELY CONDUCTED OPEN MEETINGS

Confirming Member Access:

As a preliminary matter, this is [identify meeting manager – Chair, support staff, etc.]. Permit me to confirm that all members and persons anticipated on the agenda are present and can hear me.

- Members, when I call your name, please respond in the affirmative. *State each members' name.*
- Staff, when I call your name, please respond in the affirmative. *State each staff members' name.*
- Anticipated Speakers on the Agenda, please respond in the affirmative. *State each anticipated speakers' name.*

Introduction to Remote Meeting:

Good morning/afternoon/evening. This Open Meeting of [Insert Public Body Name] is being conducted remotely consistent with Governor Baker's Executive Order of March 12, 2020, due to the current State of Emergency in the Commonwealth due to the outbreak of the "COVID-19 Virus."

In order to mitigate the transmission of the COVID-19 Virus, we have been advised and directed by the Commonwealth to suspend public gatherings, and as such, the Governor's Order suspends the requirement of the Open Meeting Law to have all meetings in a publicly accessible *physical* location. Further, all members of public bodies are allowed and encouraged to participate remotely.

The Order, which you can find posted with agenda materials for this meeting allows public bodies to meet entirely remotely so long as reasonable public access is afforded so that the public can follow along with the deliberations of the meeting.

Ensuring public access does not ensure public participation unless such participation is required by law. This meeting [will/will not] feature public comment.

For this meeting, [Insert Public Body Name] is convening by ZOOM as posted on the Town's Website identifying how the public may join.

Meeting Materials

All supporting materials have been provided to members of this body. The public is encouraged to follow along using the agenda posted on the Town's website unless I/The Chair notes otherwise.

Meeting Business Ground Rules

We are now turning to the first item on the agenda. Before we do so, permit me to cover some ground rules for effective and clear conduct of our business and to ensure accurate meeting minutes.

- I/the Chair, will introduce each speaker on the agenda. After they conclude their remarks, the Chair will go down the line of Members, inviting each by name to provide any comment, questions, or motions. Please hold until your name is called. Further,
 - Please remember to mute your phone or computer when you are not speaking;
 - Please remember to speak clearly and in a way that helps generate accurate minutes
- For any response, please wait until the Chair yields the floor to you, and state your name before speaking.
- If members wish to engage in colloquy with other members, please do so through the Chair, taking care to identify yourself.
- For Items with Public Comment:

After members have spoken, the Chair will afford public comment as follows:

- The Chair will first ask members of the public who wish to speak to identify their names and addresses only;

- Once the Chair has a list of all public commentators, I will call on each by name and afford 3 minutes for any comments.
- Finally, each vote taken in this meeting will be conducted by roll call vote.

[Any additional preliminary comments tailored to meetings]