

NORTH READING SELECT BOARD



NOTICE OF MEETING TO CONSIDER REDUCING QUORUM FOR SPECIAL TOWN MEETING

JULY 8, 2020

The Select Board hereby provides notice of its intention to considering an adjustment of the quorum requirements for the July 27, 2020 Special Town Meeting. House Bill 4777, signed by the Governor on June 5, 2020, and enacted as Chapter 92 of the Acts of 2020, authorizes a Select Board to reduce the quorum for an Annual or Special Town Meeting, regardless of whether such quorum is set by bylaw or charter. In North Reading, Section 172-4 of the Town's Bylaws, as authorized by Section 2-2-2 of the Town Charter, specifically provides that the quorum for a Special Town Meeting is 150 citizens.

As background, based upon the orders and guidance issued by the Governor and the Commonwealth Department of Public Health, among others, restricting large gatherings and various public functions, and the declaration of a State of Emergency in the Commonwealth, the Town Moderator in consultation and conjunction with the Select Board determined to recess and continue the Special Town Meeting from its original scheduled date of May 11, 2020 to June 8, 2020, then to June 29, 2020, and then subsequently to July 27, 2020. These continuances were done to help ensure that all who wish to participate are able, particularly vulnerable members of our community, were not put in jeopardy. The phased reopening of the Commonwealth has recently begun; however, holding a large meeting during this time must nevertheless account for appropriate safety planning.

One of the most essential jobs of Town Meeting is to authorize the Select Board to acquire and/or convey land. Working with the Moderator, Town Administrator and other key staff and Public Safety Officials, the Town has prepared a Town Meeting plan consistent with the advice and guidance of the Governor and the Department of Public Health. There may nevertheless be registered voters who are concerned about participating and/or who may choose to continue to stay at home during this crisis. For that reason, the Moderator and the Select Board will meet on July 20, 2020 at 7:45 pm to discuss whether to reduce the quorum as a way to ensure that Town Meeting can accomplish the important business of potentially authorizing the Select Board to acquire and then convey certain parcels of land on 4, 12, and/or 14 Concord Street.

Therefore, to preserve the option for Town Meeting to be held with a lower quorum, *the Select Board hereby provides notice of its intent to meet on a virtual platform on July 20, 2020 at 7:45 p.m., to discuss whether, with the Moderator's input and approval, it should lower the quorum to ensure that Town Meeting can efficiently and effectively undertake its responsibilities. Such meeting will be conducted via a virtual platform with public access to allow the public to follow the deliberations in real time as follows:*

Via the internet:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83459005464>

Via phone

Meeting ID: 834 5900 5464

One tap mobile

+13017158592,,83459005464# US (Germantown)

+13126266799,,83459005464# US (Chicago)

Dial by your location

+1 301 715 8592 US (Germantown)

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

+1 929 205 6099 US (New York)

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)

Meeting ID: 834 5900 5464

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/u/kgEKh3LnW>

For additional information, please check the Town website at <https://www.northreadingma.gov/> for additional information.

Finally, it is important to note that the Select Board voted to recommend to the Town Moderator, and the Town Moderator may decide, to further recess and continue the Special Town Meeting to the morning of Saturday August 8, 2020. Notice of the Town Moderator's decision will be posted on the Town website at <https://www.northreadingma.gov/>.

If there are questions in the meantime, please contact the Town Administrator's office at (978) 357 - 5210.

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