

Dzuris, Tricia

From: Dzuris, Tricia
Sent: Friday, January 28, 2022 10:53 AM
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Cc: Select Board; Finance Committee; Jon H Kurland (jon@kurland.com); Paul Haverty; Cohen, Paul; Town Clerk; Planning Board
Subject: February 24, 2022 - Special Town Meeting Notice
Attachments: Moderator-Special Town Meeting letter 012822.pdf

Importance: High

Dear Valued Town Meeting Representative,

IMPORTANT NOTICE: There will be a **Special Town Meeting on Thursday, February 24, 2022**, at 7:30 PM at the Chelmsford High School Gymnasium. Please review the warrant by following the link below.

<https://www.townofchelmsford.us/DocumentCenter/View/13644/2022-02-24-Special-Town-Meeting-Warrant-Constable-Return>

Please open and read the attached letter from Town Moderator, Jon Kurland.

In lieu of an in-person information session, please take some time to watch the Town Manager's round table discussion on the warrant articles being considered at the Special Town Meeting.

[Town Manager's Roundtable \(chelmsfordtv.org\)](http://chelmsfordtv.org)

On behalf of the Town, please accept my grateful thanks for your generous service and commitment to Chelmsford.



Patricia E. Dzuris

Patricia E. Dzuris, CMC

She/her/hers

Town Clerk

Public Records Compliance Officer

Justice of the Peace

Town Offices

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Town Moderator
17 Mansfield Drive
Chelmsford, MA 01824
Phone (978) 250-0631

Jon H. Kurland, Town Moderator

January 28, 2022

To All Town Meeting Representatives

Dear Town Meeting Representative:

As you know, we have a **Special Town Meeting on February 24, 2022 at the Chelmsford High School Gymnasium at 7:30 p.m.** This location will allow social distancing since we will not know the status of the Omicron virus at that time. While I am hopeful that numbers will decline, this will allow us to proceed with the important business of Chelmsford under the safest conditions possible. **I also strongly encourage the wearing of masks regardless of your vaccination status.**

The site is only available that one evening but I have no doubt that we shall complete the Agenda within that time. The Article that will likely be the most involved is Article 5 which is a zoning change. This change would allow a particular project to proceed on the UMASS West Campus. I have determined that the TM presentation will only address the zoning change since this project is not technically before Town Meeting. However, I recognize the realities of this Article and know that you will want to ask questions specifically about the project itself as part of your due diligence. There will be representatives from the developer available so you can make inquiry. The developer has made 45 minute power point presentations to the Planning Board, Select Board and FinCom. I have decided that the developer will NOT be making that same presentation at TM and that they may make an abbreviated presentation if the Reps request it. **I DO THINK IT WILL SERVE YOU AND TOWN MEETING WELL THAT YOU HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO SEE THE ENTIRE 45 MINUTE PRESENTATION AT YOUR CONVENIENCE.** Here is a link to the recent FinCom Meeting in which Evan Belansky and the Developers addressed the Article and proposed project. It will take you right to the beginning of the presentation.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ILtSfFgyT-g&t=2191s>

This video will answer many, if not all, your questions about the Article and proposed project and should greatly reduce the number and nature of your inquiries at Town Meeting.

It is our practice to limit discussion/debate of an article to 3 minutes per person, exclusive of questions and if you previously discussed an Article, you will not be permitted to discuss that Article again unless it is for the purpose of rebutting, distinguishing or addressing factual statements made by a speaker after your initial discussion. I am going continue to limit the time for a Presenter of any article to 10 minutes for presentation exclusive of questions. These changes have worked well, have not reduced the information necessary for Reps to make informed and thoughtful decisions while still maintaining transparency.

It has been my goal to improve Town Meeting and I will continue to seek new ways to make your job easier and more enjoyable. I would welcome anyone with questions to call me at the above number or email me with any concerns you may have at jon@kurland.com. Thank you again for your commitment to our town.

Jon H. Kurland
Chelmsford Town Moderator