



**Town of Amherst
Regular Town Council Meeting
Monday, March 7, 2022
6:30 p.m.**

Town Hall, Town Room

Virtual Meeting: <https://amherstma.zoom.us/j/82797699503>

Agenda

Members of the public are welcome to access the meeting in real time via Zoom:
<https://amherstma.zoom.us/j/82797699503>, by phone (301) 715-8592, enter webinar ID: 827 9769 9503; live broadcast on Amherst Media channel 17 or live stream:
<https://amherstmedia.org/live-stream>

1. Call to Order
2. Announcements

Upcoming Town Council Meetings:

- Town Council Work Session on Amendments to General Bylaw 3.50, Residential Rental Property: March 21, 5:30 pm, available via Zoom and Amherst Media
- Regular Town Council Meeting: March 21, 6:30 p.m., available via Zoom and Amherst Media

Upcoming Council Committee Meetings:

- Community Resources Committee: March 17, 4:30 p.m., Zoom
- Finance Committee Meeting, March 22, 9:00 a.m., Zoom
- Governance Organization, and Legislative Committee: March 9, 9:00 a.m., Zoom
- Joint meeting of the Town Services and Outreach Committee and Town Council: March 10, 6:30 p.m., Zoom – Public Hearing on Permit Parking Regulations

Other Upcoming Board and Committee Meetings:

- Elementary School Committee: March 8, 6:30 p.m., via Google Meet
- Elementary School Building Committee Community Forum: March 9, 6:30 p.m. via Zoom
- Joint Capital Planning Committee: March 10, 5:00 p.m., via Zoom

3. Hearings - *None*
4. General Public Comment

*Residents are welcome to express their views for up to 3 minutes, at the discretion of the Town Council President, based upon the number of people who wish to speak. The Council will not engage in a dialogue or comment on a matter raised during General Public Comment. **To participate in public comment, see instructions below.***

5. Consent Agenda

- Suspension of Town Council Rules of Procedure rule 8.4 for the following agenda items:
 - 8.f. Authorization for Town Council President to Submit Testimony on Behalf of the Town Council for the following items:
 - 1) Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources: Public Hearings on New Stretch Building Energy Code Proposal
 - 2) Regarding an Act Relative to Payment in Lieu of Taxation by Organizations Exempt from Property Tax, Bills S.1874 and H.3080
 - Waiver of Town Council Rules of Procedure rule 8.6 for agenda item 9.a.1) Approval of Town Manager Appointment Community Responders for Equity, Safety, and Service (CRESS) Director
- 6.a. Adoption of Resolution Calling on President Joe Biden to Immediately Cancel All Student Debt
- 6.b. Adoption of Proclamation of Congratulations to the Amherst Regional High School Girls Swimming and Diving Team
- 8.b. Referral to Town Services and Outreach Committee for conversation and possible recommendation on the topic of economic development and use of public space
- 8.f.1) Authorization of Town Council President to submit testimony on behalf of the Town Council regarding the New Stretch Building Energy Code Proposal
- 8.f.2) Authorization of Town Council President to submit testimony on behalf of the Town Council regarding Act Relative to Payment in Lieu of Taxation by Organizations Exempt from Property Tax, Bills S.1874 and H.3080
- 9.a.1) Approval of Town Manager appointment of Director of Community Responders for Equity, Safety, and Service (CRESS)

6. Resolutions and Proclamations – Consent Agenda

- a. Resolution Calling on President Joe Biden to Immediately Cancel All Student Loan Debt
 - 1) Governance, Organization, and Legislation Committee Report
 - 2) Council Discussion
 - 3) Reading
 - 4) Motion and Vote
- b. Proclamation of Congratulations to the Amherst Regional High School Girls Swimming and Diving Team
 - 1) Governance, Organization, and Legislation Committee Report
 - 2) Council Discussion
 - 3) Reading
 - 4) Motion and Vote

7. Presentations and Discussion

- a. Energy and Climate Action Committee Report
 - 1) Presentation
 - 2) Council Discussion
- b. Draft Solar Siting and Solar Bylaw Working Group Charge

- 1) Presentation
 - 2) Council Discussion
8. Action Items
- a. The following motion was postponed under Charter Sec. 2.10(c) on February 28: To task the Town Manager to create a Solar Bylaw Working Group to design and oversee a solar siting study and draft a solar bylaw. The charge of this committee should be brought before the Council for comments on March 7, 2022, and should include a provision that the draft solar bylaw be referred to the Town Council on or before March 6, 2023.
 - 1) Council Discussion
 - 2) Vote
 - b. Use of Public Space/Streets, Including Outdoor Summer Dining
 - 1) Community Resources Committee Report
 - 2) Council Discussion
 - 3) Motion and vote to refer
 - c. African Heritage Reparation Assembly: Request for Proposed Legislation
 - 1) Presentation
 - 2) Council Discussion
 - 3) Motion and vote
 - d. Proposed Residential Rental Bylaw Registration, Permit, and Inspection Fees
 - 1) Sponsor Presentation
 - 2) Council Discussion
 - 3) Motion and vote to refer
 - e. Town Council Meeting Format
 - 1) Council Discussion
 - 2) Motion and vote
 - f. Authorization for Town Council President to Submit Testimony on Behalf of the Town Council
 - 1) Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources: Public Hearings on New Stretch Building Energy Code Proposal
 - a) Council Discussion
 - b) Motion and vote
 - 2) Regarding an Act Relative to Payment in Lieu of Taxation by Organizations Exempt from Property Tax, Bills S.1874 and H.3080
 - a) Council Discussion
 - b) Motion and vote
9. Appointments
- a. Town Manager Appointments – *Charter Sec. 2.11(a)*
 - 1) Community Responders for Equity, Safety, and Service (CRESS) Director
 - a) Town Services and Outreach Committee Report
 - b) Council Discussion
 - c) Motion and vote
 - b. Town Council Appointments - *None*
10. Committee and Liaison Reports
- a. Community Resources Committee

- b. Elementary School Building Committee
- c. Finance Committee
- d. Governance, Organization, and Legislation Committee
- e. Jones Library Building Committee
- f. Town Services and Outreach Committee
- g. Liaison Reports: Amherst Affordable Housing Trust, Board of Health, Community Safety and Social Justice Committee, Disability Access Advisory Committee, Energy and Climate Action Committee, Planning Board, and Transportation Advisory Committee

11. Approval of Minutes – *None*

12. Town Manager Report

13. Town Council Comments

- a. President Report
- b. Future Agenda Items
- c. Councilor Comments

14. Topics Not Reasonably Anticipated by the Chair 48 Hours in Advance of the Meeting

15. Executive Session – *None*

16. Adjourn

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To join the Council meeting via telephone: Call (646) 876-9923 or (312) 626-6799;

Enter webinar ID when prompted: 827 9769 9503;

When prompted to enter your participant number press #

During the public comment period, the Council President will recognize members of the public. When called on, please identify yourself by stating your full name, pronouns, and district or address.