

Arlington Town Meeting — Substitute Motion

ARTICLE NO. 14

Dated: April 24, 2023

I, Lenard Diggins, do hereby submit the following Substitute Motion under Article 14:

Voted:

That Town Meeting creates a Study Committee hereby called the “Town Meeting New Growth Study Committee” for the purpose of exploring the possibilities for new growth in Arlington and the impact of new growth in various contexts and scenarios. Though strategies may be investigated, the primary purpose of the Study Committee is to provide education to Town Meeting and residents regarding the role that new growth can play in the Town’s financial future.

I. Membership and Organization

A. The Committee shall consist of the following members:

1. Seven to Nine (7 to 9) Arlington residents appointed by the Town Moderator in cooperation with the Envision Arlington Standing Committee (Voting);
2. One (1) member of the Select Board, or their designee as Ex Officio (Non-voting);
3. OPTIONAL: One (1) member of the Board of Assessors, or their designee (Voting);
4. OPTIONAL: One (1) member of the Redevelopment Board, or their designee (Voting);
5. OPTIONAL: One (1) member of the Zoning Board of Appeals or their designee (Voting); and
6. OPTIONAL: One (1) member of the Department of Planning and Community Development or their designee (Voting).

B. Quorum

A majority of voting members shall constitute a quorum, and decisions shall be based on the vote of a simple majority of those committee members present and voting.

C. Organization and First Meeting

The initial meeting of the Study Committee shall be convened by the designee of the Select Board, and the first order of business shall be the self-organization of the study committee through the election of one chair, whose responsibility shall be to convene and preside over all future meetings, as well as a clerk, whose duties shall include the proper posting of meeting agendas and minutes. The Study Committee shall designate any other officers as it sees fit.

II. Committee Charge & Reporting

- A. The Study Committee shall study the potential need, value, and options for increasing new growth in Arlington.
- B. The Study Committee will be encouraged to research how new growth is generated in other municipalities in Massachusetts as well as other municipalities and counties in the United States. International research is also an option.
- C. The Study Committee shall engage residents of the town for their opinions and ideas via forums and polls and any other means that allow outreach to as many residents as possible.
- D. The Study Committee shall not directly request technical assistance from the Town staff. Any requests shall be conveyed to the Town Manager via the Select Board Member or designee. Voluntary input from staff, however, is always welcomed.
- E. The Study Committee shall make every effort not to interfere with or in any way diminish activities by the Department of Planning and Community Development as it undertakes the next iteration of the Master Plan or any other activities.
- F. If requested, the Study Committee shall make every effort to complement the work of Town Departments, Commissions, and other Committees
- G. If the Study Committee is asked to temporarily suspend its work by the Town Manager, it will do so for the requested amount of time.
- H. If requested, the Study Committee may share preliminary findings before they are reported to Town Meeting.
- I. The Study Committee shall report its findings to the 2025 Annual Town Meeting, and if requested, it will be granted another year to function.

J. Though there may be recommendations regarding new growth implicit in the findings, the Study Committee will not make explicit recommendations to Town Meeting or Town Staff.

III. Dissolution

The study committee shall be dissolved concurrent with the dissolution of the 2026 Annual Town Meeting.

Comment:

The substitute motion makes it clear that the Study Committee will not require commitments from Town Staff, and it makes optional participation by the Dept. of Planning and Community Development, the Board of Assessors, the Redevelopment Board, and the Zoning Board of Appeals. Since the Study Committee will exist primarily for educational purposes, it will not present formal recommendations or plans regarding development.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Lenard T. Diggins

Lenard Diggins, Precinct 3

Date Voted: _____

Action Taken: _____