

INFORMATION FOR NON-VOTERS

Stow Town Meeting

This document has been prepared to assist non-voters who attend a Stow town meeting. All non-voters must checkin if they plan to participate in or attend a town meeting session.

1. All those registered to vote in Stow are herein termed “voters”; all other adult visitors or children of registered voters are termed “non-voters”. If you are in doubt about your status, the checkers will determine it during the checkin process.
2. You are invited to attend a Stow town meeting as a non-voter. Initially, all non-voters will be seated outside of the auditorium, unless you fall into one of the categories listed below. Once the meeting is in progress and should space be available in the auditorium, the Moderator may first allow registered voters and then non-voters to enter the auditorium.
3. Unless you fall into one of the categories listed below, you must remain outside of the auditorium until notified by the Moderator. Non-voters are not eligible to participate in debate or vote.
4. If you are a member of the working press (print media) and are a non-voter, you have the option of sitting in the designated “press” section located in the left side of the auditorium in the front row. You must identify yourself as a reporter by display of credentials if requested to do so by the Moderator. No votes will be counted in the “press” section nor will those in this section participate in debate. Photographs are not allowed during any vote or count.
5. If you are the Minuteman or Nashoba Regional School District Superintendent, you are authorized by statute to address the voters, but not vote unless you are a “voter”. If you are a member of a regional school committee or school administration, a town employee but are not a “voter” and your presence is specifically requested by the town board or official to whom you report, or authorized by the Moderator, you may be seated in the auditorium prior to the opening of the meeting. Non-voters may address the meeting with the approval of the voters.
6. If you are a non-voter and wish to be seated in the auditorium at the beginning of the town meeting to make a presentation, but in no case does a non-voter participate in debate, prior to the start of the session you must provide the moderator with a written request, properly signed, stating your name, address and the article(s) on which you wish to speak. Further,
 - a) If you are present on your own behalf because of some interest in one or more articles, i.e., ownership of property abutting an area of proposed rezoning, this interest should be stated in the request so that the town meeting will know why you wish to be admitted. In such a case you should sign the request
 - b) If you are appearing at the request of a voter, i.e., to provide expertise on a motion to come before the meeting, then the circumstances making it worthwhile for the town meeting to admit you should be briefly described. The sponsoring voter should also sign the request.
7. Non-voters are admitted pursuant to 6a and 6b above by a majority vote of the meeting. If you are so admitted, you may participate in making a presentation or answering questions, but not vote.
8. Any questions should be referred to the Moderator before being asked or answered by a non-voter.

David Walrath
Moderator, Town of Stow

Non-Voter Request to Address Town Meeting

Article Number (s) _____

Reason to request approval to address the meeting:

Stow Property Owner/Town Department Sponsor _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone (day) _____ Phone (eve) _____

Signature _____ Date _____

Non-Voter Name _____

Company/Town Department Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone (day) _____ Phone (eve) _____

Signature _____ Date _____

NOTE: Checker, please deliver to the Moderator prior to the start of the Town Meeting session

Moderator _____ Date _____ Time _____