

Article 17 – Firearms Business Zoning By-Law

The Motion

I MOVE TO SEE IF THE TOWN WILL VOTE TO REFER TO THE PLANNING BOARD THE DEVELOPMENT OF A PROPOSED BYLAW SECTION TITLED “***FIREARMS BUSINESS ZONING***” AND TO REPORT PROGRESS OF SUCH ON OR BEFORE THE TOWN MEETING 2024.

The Article as Written in the Warrant

TO SEE IF THE TOWN WILL VOTE TO AMEND THE STOW ZONING BYLAW BY ADDING A SECTION TITLED “***FIREARMS BUSINESS ZONING***” WITH DETAILS PERTAINING TO SUCH AS DEVELOPED WITH/BY THE PLANNING DEPARTMENT/PLANNING BOARD AND APPROVED THROUGH REQUIRED TOWN PROCESSES.

Background

This is essentially rewording of the Article 17 for the Zoning Board to prepare and propose a section Town of Stow Zoning By-Law, last Updated May 2021, titled **Firearms Business Zoning** (potentially Section 3.8). The wording of the motion is substantially that of the Citizens Petition with wording modified with intent to be acceptable for consideration.

The existing Zoning By-Laws have **no such section**, thus making it difficult for Applicant Businesses to know the requirements, and for the Planning Board to ask for compliance beyond **what is explicitly written**.

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Example - Littleton, Mass – December 15, 2022

Definitions - Firearm, Firearm Business, Firearm Accessory, Ammunition, Gunsmith

Applicability – Special Permit Requirement

Locations – 500 feet from schools, churches, etc. **Another firearms business**

Procedures - Special Permit Details

Signage - Typical

Security - Typical

Parking - Typical

Number of Establishments – Not Mentioned

Accessory Usage- Permitting

Termination of Permits - Includes Revocation – Strengthened June 2023

Also - Adds appropriate information to Table of Principal Uses