

From: Buzby, Maureen <mbuzby@cityofmelrose.org>

Sent: May 29, 2025 21:48:27.000000000 UTC

Subject: RE: Updated invitation: Bellingham BOH Meeting @ Wed May 28, 2025 7:30pm - 8:30pm (EDT) (ginnychadwick@brandeis.edu)

To: Chadwick, Ginny <ginnychadwick@brandeis.edu>

Cc: Ken Elstein <kenelstein@gmail.com>

Hi Ginny,

Just to amplify what Ken said.

We don't get to choose what goes on the agenda for a Town Meeting. We have no influence. If someone wants to submit a warrant article they may. We don't like it of course but we don't have a say. We don't live there. And even if we did, we could go to the meeting and vote but we couldn't keep something off Town Meeting agenda.

We would have loved to have known about this in advance but we didn't. We quickly tried to do as much as we could in the short time that we had but given that most of us have full-time jobs and do this on a volunteer basis we do the best we can. Ken and Isabel especially. It was a very long day for Mark and me but worth as we picked up some intel and got to meet the Town Agent who is pumped and wants to join our team. He's got the passion and the energy. And he knows the area. Which, by the way, is a red belt.

Hope this helps.

Maureen

From: Ken Elstein <kenelstein@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 28, 2025 9:00 PM
To: Ginny Chadwick <ginnychadwick@brandeis.edu>
Cc: Shresta Chakilam <chakilamshresta@gmail.com>; sharon.levy@childrens.harvard.edu; Gregory Sawicki <drsawickiboh@gmail.com>; Kristen Hoag <khoag@belchertownps.org>; Mark <mark@phai.org>; Jonathan Winickoff <jwinickoff@mgh.harvard.edu>; mchouhms@gmail.com; Kate Silbaugh <kbsilbaugh@gmail.com>; Isabel Tashie <isabeltashie@gmail.com>; Rory Milsark <rmilsark@gmail.com>; Heather Warner <hwarner@collaborative.org>; Jeanne L. MacDonald MD <jlmacdonald@mgb.org>; Savage, Thomas L. <tlsavage@mgh.harvard.edu>; Bonny Carroll <bcarroll@somervillema.gov>; Zachary Rich <zachary.rich@bmc.org>; Buzby, Maureen <mbuzby@cityofmelrose.org>; Jane Pham <jpham@mves.org>; Diane Stover-pepe <stoverd@mskcc.org>; Dj Wilson <wilsondj@ymail.com>; Anthony Ishak <aishakpharmd@yahoo.com>; Ross D. Merkin MD <rdmerkin@mgb.org>; Chui, Anthony <achui@cityofmelrose.org>; Sigalle Reiss <sreiss@brooklinema.gov>; Chris Bostic <bosticc@ash.org>
Subject: Re: Updated invitation: Bellingham BOH Meeting @ Wed May 28, 2025 7:30pm - 8:30pm (EDT) (ginnychadwick@brandeis.edu)

This is how Open Town Meetings work in Massachusetts. The turnout is typical: less than 2% of voters turnout.

We did a postcard mailing last week to the 1600 people likely to attend.

On Wed, May 28, 2025 at 8:03 PM Ginny Chadwick <ginnychadwick@brandeis.edu> wrote:

I want to be clear, this is a TOWN WIDE vote on NFG. This is a very important (and potentially detrimental) vote for the policy as if this fails it could really squelch movement outside of the state. I really, really didn't realize that this was not a Select Board vote but a literal community member vote (either way, I feel more ground work should have been done before we let them go in this way).

Those at the meeting might know better, but as I watch it, it looks like only residents can speak, ask questions, or vote. There are about 180 voting residents at the meeting.

Ginny Chadwick, MPH, MA
She/Her/Hers
Doctoral Student in Behavioral Health
Heller School for Social Policy & Management
Brandeis University
Cell: (573)999-2641

On May 28, 2025, at 6:37 PM, Ginny Chadwick <ginnychadwick@brandeis.edu> wrote:

Here is the live stream of the meeting: <https://abmi8.org/>

Ginny Chadwick, MPH, MA
She/Her/Hers
Doctoral Student in Behavioral Health
Heller School for Social Policy & Management
Brandeis University
Cell: (573)999-2641

On May 28, 2025, at 6:35 PM, Shresta Chakilam <chakilamshresta@gmail.com> wrote:

This event has been updated

Changed: conferencing

Steps before and during meeting:

- Request the opportunity for one or more of us to be allowed to speak at Town Meeting. I think voters will be impressed to hear from one of our medical professionals, and perhaps one of our addiction control people. That would require some preparation, in part reaching out to the Bellingham Town Moderator. The fact that the nicotine dealers will be allowed to speak, whether they are residents or not, suggests they might also let us participate in fairness. Because this is Article 19, the debate is unlikely to begin before 8:00 or 8:30 pm.
- I would like us to distribute flyers outside the meeting, perhaps identical to the attached postcard, both to remind voters and for those who did not receive one. The meeting begins at 7:30 pm, so we'd need to start at about 6:30 pm. We could print about 250 of the but we would need volunteers to be there.
- One other thing: **The Board of Health already has given nicotine vendors a huge financial benefit**, though I doubt anyone in Bellingham realizes this. They have permanently frozen new tobacco licences. When we did the same thing in my own Town of Belchertown, we pointed out that they could never get a competitor to open up next door. In effect, the Bellingham BoH gave our vendors a local monopoly, forever.

When

Wednesday May 28, 2025 · 7:30pm – 8:30pm (Eastern Time - New York)

Guests

[Shresta Chakilam](#) - organizer
sharon.levy@childrens.harvard.edu
drsawickiboh@gmail.com
khoag@belchertownps.org
kenelstein@gmail.com
mark@phai.org
jwinickoff@mgh.harvard.edu
mchouhms@gmail.com
kbsilbaugh@gmail.com
isabeltashie@gmail.com
rmilsark@gmail.com
hwarner@collaborative.org
ginnychadwick@brandeis.edu
jlmacdonald@mgb.org
tlsavage@mgh.harvard.edu
bcarroll@somervillema.gov
zachary.rich@bmc.org
mbuzby@cityofmelrose.org
jpham@mves.org
stoverd@mkscc.org
wilsondj@ymail.com
aishakpharmd@yahoo.com
rdmerkin@mgb.org
achui@cityofmelrose.org
sreiss@brooklinema.gov
[View all guest info \[calendar.google.com\]](#)

Reply for ginnychadwick@brandeis.edu

Yes No Maybe

More options

Invitation from [Google Calendar \[calendar.google.com\]](#)

You are receiving this email because you are subscribed to calendar notifications. To stop receiving these emails, go to [Calendar settings \[calendar.google.com\]](#), select the calendar, and change "Other notifications".

Forwarding this invitation could allow any recipient to send a response to the organizer, be added to the guest list, invite others regardless of their own invitation status, or your RSVP. [Learn more \[support.google.com\]](#)

<Mail Attachment.ics><invite.ics>

****CITY OF MELROSE PUBLIC RECORDS NOTICE: Please be advised that the Massachusetts Attorney General has determined that email is a public record unless the content of the email falls within one of the stated exemptions under the Massachusetts Public Records Laws.****

CITY OF MELROSE PUBLIC RECORDS NOTICE: Please be advised that the Massachusetts Attorney General has determined that email is a public record unless the content of the email falls within one of the stated exemptions under the Massachusetts Public Records Laws.