ORDINANCE ADOPTION /PETITION PROCESS

Board of Selectmen
Section 3.5 Public Hearing on
& Publication of Ordinances

BOS Proposal
Need – Discussion – Propose Ordinance –
Vote to send to Public Hearing

Public Hearing
At least one Public Hearing held
before approving any Ordinance

Publication
Notice: At least 5 days in
advance of Public Hearing
[Section 3.5(a)]

BOS ACTION OPTIONS

BOS Adopts Ordinance
Recording and Publication
Town Clerk Records Ordinance

Town Meeting
Adopts Ordinance

Publication
Notice: Within 10 days Summary of
Ordinance Published [Section 3.5(b)] –
unless full text required by Statute

Effective Date
21st day after ordinance publication
following final passage
[Section 3.5(c)] - except as provided in
Sections 2.6 & 2.7

VOTER PETITION

PETITION FOR SPECIAL TOWN MEETING
Overrule of BOS Action
Petition Deadline: 20 days after Ordinance
Publication; *5% of Voters – based on # of Electors
as of date of submission of Petition [Section 2.7]*

Publication
Notice: At least 5 days in advance
of Town Meeting
[Section 2.3 & Statute - Section 7.2]

Effective Date
15th day after ordinance
publication following passage
[Statute Section 7-157(a)]

IF PETITION CERTIFIED BY TOWN CLERK
Special Town Meeting held within 21 days
of certification; Notice: At least 5 days in
advance of Special Town Meeting

Effective Date
If not Overruled: At conclusion
of Town Meeting or later date
originally specified by BOS

Overrule Requirement
Vote of at least 50 Voters
constituting a majority of those
present & voting

TIME PROVIDED FOR PETITION FILING
The number of days for Voters to file a petition to overrule BOS adoption of an Ordinance in practice would be from date of BOS adoption or even public hearing, plus number of days until publication (up to 10 days), plus 20 days following publication. Therefore, in practice probably about a month or more

Section 2.8 Petition for Special Town Meeting for Enactment of Ordinances or Other Action
Provides for Voters, at any time to petition for enactment of any proposed ordinance or other action not inconsistent with the Charter or applicable law