

Public Session for Corrections to the Andover Voter Checklist

Press release

The Voter Checklist for Andover will be posted at the Andover Town Office for public review by Tuesday, August 16.

A public session of the Supervisors of the Checklist will be held on Saturday, September 3, at 10 AM at the Town Office to make any necessary corrections to the Voter Checklist. This public session will be the last opportunity for new voter registrations until Primary Election Day on Tuesday, September 13. 

New Hampshire Primary Election on Tuesday, September 13

Checklist public session on September 3

Lee Wells, Deputy Moderator

The New Hampshire Primary Election is on Tuesday, September 13.

As pointed out by the New York Times in an article about events in Croydon, one of the enemies of democracy is complacency. Don't take democracy for granted: be informed, be involved, and vote!

You may register to vote at Town Hall during regular hours up until Saturday, September 3, when the Supervisors of the Checklist will meet at 10 AM at Town Hall to finalize the checklist for the Primary on Tuesday, September 13; you can register to vote with them then. If you miss that deadline, you may register on Election Day at the polls at Andover Elementary/Middle School from 8 AM to 7 PM.

In order to register, you need to bring proof of identity, age, citizenship, and residency with you. A driver's license, passport, or other photo ID will work for ID and age. Tax or utility bills addressed to you will show where you live. A birth certificate, passport, or naturalization papers will prove citizenship. You may also register to vote by mail by contacting Lisa Meier, our Town Clerk.

When you register you will need to register as an "undeclared" voter, a Republican, or a Democrat. On Primary Election Day you will be handed a ballot for the party for which you are registered.

If you are registered as "undeclared," you will need to "declare" as a Republican or Democrat in order to receive a ballot for the Primary Election. After you have voted, you may then go to the table where the Supervisors of the Checklist are located to change back to "undeclared."

If you will not be able to vote in person in Andover on Election Day, you may request an absentee ballot. Reasons for requesting an absentee ballot include being away from Andover on Election Day, religious reasons, family care reasons, or medical reasons.

You may request an absentee ballot in person from the Town Clerk. You can call the Town Clerk and ask that an

absentee ballot application be mailed to you, or you may download an absentee ballot application from the Secretary of State's website at sos.nh.gov/sites/g/files/ehbemt561/files/documents/Election%20Documents/absentee-ballot-application-state-election.pdf, fill it out, and bring it or mail it to the Town Clerk.

Be sure to allow enough time to receive the ballot and return it by mail if you are returning it by mail. If you are returning your absentee ballot in person, your ballot must be handed to the Town Clerk in person when Town Hall is open. You may also complete the entire absentee ballot process in person at Town Hall once the ballots have been mailed to the Town Clerk.

The Town Clerk's office will be open on Monday, September 12, from 3 to 5 PM to receive absentee ballots. Absentee ballots may also be submitted on Election Day to the ballot clerks up until 5 PM. This is usually done by a family member for the absent voter.

Voters with mobility issues may request curbside voting on Election Day, and an absentee ballot application and ballot will be brought to them.

Please note: An important change from the 2020 election is that we are no longer under a state of emergency due to COVID-19, and concern about COVID-19 is no longer an accepted reason for requesting an absentee ballot. However, if a voter has a medical condition, such as a respiratory condition or being immunocompromised, which puts them in a much higher risk category should they contract COVID-19, then they should request an absentee ballot for medical reasons.

Please contact Lee Wells, Deputy Moderator, at LeeWells.LocustFarm@gmail.com or 603 735-5756; or Lisa Meier, Town Clerk, at TCTC@Andover-NH.gov or 603 735-5018, if you have any questions.

See you on Tuesday, September 13. The polls will be open from 8 AM to 7 PM. Be sure to be informed and vote! 

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Draft Zoning Changes for Village Tackle Housing Shortage

Public hearings on August 9 and September 13

Ken Wells, Andover Planning Board

The Andover Planning Board is tackling the challenging housing crunch that many are experiencing in Andover.

In an article published in the July issue of *The Andover Beacon*, the grave problems caused by our region's shortage of workforce housing were explained in some detail. [You can read the July article at AndoverBeacon.com/index.php/43984]

In short, new workers such as recent graduates cannot afford to rent or buy a place to live in our town, even if they accept one of the many decent entry-level jobs being offered by companies in our area. They therefore have little option but to move away from New Hampshire, and it is likely that companies may also move elsewhere to meet their labor needs.

The current housing shortage has been decades in the making and is caused by our ordinances that prevent the construction of anything but single-family housing – the most expensive option. Surrounding towns have similar restrictions and the same problems.

Essentially the only loophole for creating apartments in Andover has been through "accessory dwelling units," which allow homeowners to carve out a "mother-in-law" apartment from an existing single-family residence. This has not resulted in sufficient numbers of satisfactory homes being created for

young folks and their families, and our existing restrictions have prevented the market from meeting the demand.

Therefore, the Planning Board is proposing the following changes, which will be up for public hearing and discussion at 7 PM on Tuesday, August 9, and Tuesday, September 13, at Town Hall.

First, the words "constructed by interior alteration of an existing residence" have been struck from the description of the type of apartments allowed in Andover.

Second, general farming and forestry continue to be allowed, as always, in the Forest and Agriculture (FA) and the Agriculture and Residential (AR) as well as Rural Residential (RR) zones, but the Village zone is limited to "Horticulture, vegetable gardens, small flocks of hens (less than 25) and personal pets (ponies, lambs, etc.)"

Third, and most significantly, "Only one building for dwelling (Single family, multi-family, or apartment building) may be constructed on any lot in the Village or Rural Residential zones" changed. This change allows the creation of housing other than single-family dwelling units.

A few further details preserve the requirements for set-backs and clarify how driveways may be shared, and provide at least one parking space for each dwelling unit.

Copies of the current draft ordinance may be obtained at Town Hall or viewed online at AndoverBeacon.com/index.php/44097. 

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