



**TOWN OF HOPKINTON
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
OFFICE OF THE TOWN CLERK
CONNOR B. DEGAN, TOWN CLERK
18 MAIN STREET, HOPKINTON, MA 01748
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
MONDAY, MAY 5, 2025
RETURN OF THE WARRANT**

ARTICLE 27 - Amend Zoning Bylaw Definition of “Veterinary Clinic”: To see if the Town will vote to amend Zoning Bylaw, Chapter 210, Article I, Section 210-4, definition of “Veterinary Clinic” as follows:

VETERINARY CLINIC -- An establishment to provide medical care to animals of all types housed in a facility separate and apart from all other uses on that site. There shall be no outdoor facilities to house or exercise animals. **A veterinary clinic may provide for on-site cremation or aquamation services for the disposal of animal remains, provided that the crematorium and/or aquamation processes shall emit no odors or visible emissions and that all activity relating to the deceased shall be screened from public view to the maximum extent possible, including delivery and storage of the remains.**

Pass any vote or take any act relative thereto.

Required Recommendations: Planning Board recommends Approval.

Motion (Planning Board): *We move that the Town vote to amend the Zoning Bylaws of the Town of Hopkinton, as set forth in Article 27 of the 2025 Annual Town Meeting Warrant.*

Ken Weismantel of Ash Street asked if aquamation would flush into the town sewer system. The Moderator answered that the process is cremation with an alkaline solution that is then dehydrated and given to the owners, instead of disposed.

Julius Billeter of Overlook Road asked if there are low-emission options for cremation. Mr. Benson from the Planning Board answered yes, that there are laws and regulations that prevent emitting cremation byproducts. seeking to perform them in the future. If they begin performing cremations, regulation will be

Amna Diwan of Ash Street asked if cremations would be open to patients only, or the general public. The Moderator answered that it would be up to the policies of each business.

Beth Watson of Hayden Rowe asked if this veterinary clinic is licensed, and is there a way to regulate that the disposal of remains is happening correctly. The Moderator answered that the town does not currently have any clinics that would be doing cremations, but there are clinics seeking to perform them in the future. If they begin performing cremations, regulation will be

Main Motion Passed by $\frac{2}{3}$ Majority, 119 Yes - 20 No (2025-05-05)