

**BARNSTABLE COUNTY
ASSEMBLY OF DELEGATES
In the Year Two Thousand and Twenty-Two
Resolution 22-01**

Assembly of Delegates Meetings Using Videoconference Technology

Be it Hereby Resolved by the Barnstable County Assembly of Delegates:

Whereas, the Barnstable County Assembly of Delegates was established by the Barnstable County Home Rule Charter and vested with authority to exercise all legislative powers of Cape Cod regional government and is an independent branch of government co-equal to the executive branch.

Whereas, the Assembly of Delegates uses videoconference (remote) technology to conduct meetings for public health and other reasons in compliance with State law and regulations; and

Whereas, videoconference meeting platforms including Zoom and Microsoft Teams provide significant benefits but also may be subject to intrusions by unauthorized actions intended to disrupt or shut meetings down; and

Whereas, computer hackers (parties skilled in information technology who subvert computer systems for malicious purposes) and Internet trolls (parties who post inflammatory or derogatory comments on Internet sites) infiltrate government meetings seeking to disrupt and shutdown those meetings; and

Whereas, the Assembly Speaker presides over Assembly meetings, with the responsibility of ensuring the orderly completion of the Assembly's business; and

Whereas, meeting disruption is the goal of hackers and trolls and must be prevented or minimized; and

Whereas, remote meeting platforms may provide mechanisms for unintentional potential Open Meeting Law violations; and

Whereas, use of a videoconference "chat" feature is considered by the Massachusetts Attorney General to be a potential violation of Massachusetts' Open Meeting Law.

NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED that the Barnstable County Assembly of Delegates will:

1. Carry out its business in public meetings on behalf of County residents in an efficient and transparent manner.
2. Pursue strategies to prevent malicious interruption of meetings using available technology and policy measures.
3. Consult with Barnstable County Information Technology to utilize best practices in technology security when conducting public meetings via videoconference platforms.
4. Eject meeting participants immediately who attempt malicious disruption.
5. Minimize the impact of any attempted malicious disruption and carry out the business of the Assembly whenever reasonable as determined by the Assembly Speaker.
6. Disable the “chat” feature when using videoconferencing for Assembly meetings to prevent posting by participants during meetings.

The Assembly of Delegates unanimously adopted the foregoing Resolution 22-01 at its regular meeting on February 2, 2022 by a roll call vote.

Attested by:

A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Owen Fletcher". The letters are bold and connected, with a distinctive flourish at the end of the word "Fletcher".

Owen Fletcher, Clerk
Assembly of Delegates