INFORMATION ON SUBMITTING A CITIZEN PETITION

New Hampshire RSA 39:3 requires that petition articles must have at least 25 signatures of registered voters in the Town of Salem in order to be included on the warrant. The RSA also states that the Selectmen shall insert the petitioned article with only such minor textual changes as may be required. All names will be reviewed by the Town Clerk to verify that signers are registered voters. Deadline for petition articles is close of business (5:00 p.m.) Tuesday, January 14, 2020. (January 10th for warrant articles requiring a bond.)

The Board of Selectmen will hold a meeting in January (Thursday, January 16, 2020) regarding petition articles.

The Budget Committee will hold a meeting in January 15, 2020 (Preliminary Votes) and January 21, 2020 (Public Hearing & Final Votes) to consider petition articles. Petitioner(s) is requested to attend those meetings, as well as the Annual Town Meeting Deliberative Session scheduled for Saturday, February 1, 2020 to support the petition article. (Note: Budget Committee only votes on warrant articles requiring an appropriation.)

Petition articles must be submitted to the Board of Selectmen/Town Manager’s Office prior to the deadline to be considered for the Annual Town Meeting.

PLEASE NOTE IF THE PETITION ARTICLE INCLUDES A COST FOR THE PROJECT/ITEM, THAT AMOUNT MUST BE INCLUDED AS PART OF THE LANGUAGE OF THE PETITION PRIOR TO GATHERING SIGNATURES.

Dates to remember:

- **January 14, 2020** (Tuesday) – Deadline to Submit Citizen Petition to Board of Selectmen
  (Petition must be submitted by 5:00 p.m. at the Town Manager’s Office, Salem Town Hall) (January 10th for warrant articles requiring a bond.)

- **January 15, 2020** (Wednesday) - Budget Committee Meeting, Preliminary Votes
  (Meeting begins at 7:00 p.m. at Salem Town Hall) - FOR CITIZEN PETITIONS REQUESTING AN APPROPRIATION ONLY

- **January 16, 2020** (Thursday) – Board of Selectmen Meeting, Citizen Petition Review/Votes
  (Meeting begins at 7:00 p.m. at Salem Town Hall)

- **January 21, 2020** (Tuesday) - Budget Committee Meeting, Public Hearing/Final Votes
  (Meeting begins at 7:00 p.m. at Salem Town Hall) - FOR CITIZEN PETITIONS REQUESTING AN APPROPRIATION ONLY

- **February 1, 2020** (Saturday) - Deliberative Session
  (Meeting begins at 9:00 a.m. at the Salem High School Auditorium)

- **March 10, 2020** (Tuesday) – Ballot Voting for Registered Voters

Please note that at least one individual should attend the meetings of January 15th, 16, & 21st as well as the February 1st deliberative session to speak on behalf of the petition.

Please direct any questions to Maureen Witley in the Town Manager’s Office at 603-890-2120 or by e-mail mwitley@salemnh.gov.