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Milton Neighbors for Responsible Zoning Statement on Successful Signature Drive

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Milton Neighbors for Responsible Zoning (MNRZ) is proud to announce the successful conclusion of a historic signature drive to force a referendum on the comprehensive zoning changes adopted by the 2023 December Special Town Meeting.

This week, MNRZ delivered nearly 3,000 signatures to town hall—well above the required 1,062 threshold—on a petition requesting Article 1 of the December 2023 Special Town Meeting be brought to the voters as a ballot question.

Under section 7 of Milton’s Town Charter, the Select Board will now be required to schedule a special election for all registered voters in Milton to decide for themselves if this zoning article is right for our town.

The successful conclusion of this historic signature drive is a triumph of democracy made possible thanks to the grassroots efforts of hundreds of citizen volunteers concerned about the impact of the most comprehensive changes to Milton’s zoning bylaws in nearly 100 years. Milton’s residents deserve to have their voices heard on this critically important issue.

Town Meeting Member and MNRZ volunteer Brian O’Halloran commented: “Close to 15% of the electorate in Milton has sent a strong message that they want and deserve a voice on the most sweeping zoning bylaw change in a century.”

Town Meeting Member and Former Chair of the Milton Planning Board Denny Swenson added that, “the sense I get is that citizens from all over town think this article was rushed and they don’t like it. Many citizens in the neighborhoods most affected told me that they did not even know this was happening. They didn’t know what to do or who to speak to or how to be heard. I think people want to honor the spirit of the legislation and agree many of the goals are good but the article as crafted doesn’t deliver. 158 Town Meeting Members voted for it, but I know of a couple thousand citizens that think this can and should be better zoning.”

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