



## **VILLAGE OF DOBBS FERRY BOARD OF TRUSTEES AGENDA**

<b>MEETING DATE:</b> MAY 10, 2022
<b>AGENDA ITEM SECTION:</b> DISCUSSION AND RESOLUTION ITEMS
<b>AGENDA ITEM NO. :</b> 4
<b>AGENDA ITEM:</b>
<b><u>DISCUSSION:</u></b> DISCUSSION OF OPEN MEETINGS LAW REQUIREMENTS
<b>ITEM BACKUP DOCUMENTATION:</b>
1. MEMORANDUM AND ATTACHMENT DATED MAY 3, 2022 FROM LORI LEE DICKSON, ESQ/ATTORNEY FOR THE VILLAGE TO MAYOR ROSSILLO AND THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES



## MEMO

711 Westchester Avenue, Suite 405  
White Plains, NY 10604  
914-946-3700; [ldickson@mccarthyfingar.com](mailto:ldickson@mccarthyfingar.com)

---

**TO:** Mayor and Trustees - Village of Dobbs Ferry  
**FROM:** Lori Lee Dickson, Esq.  
**RE:** Open Meetings Law Amendment – Video-Conferencing  
**DATE:** May 3, 2022  
**cc:** Melissa Ferraro, Village Administrator  
Elizabeth Dreaper, RMC, Village Clerk

---

Open Meetings Law was recently amended adding §103-a providing an additional option for board members to participate using video-conferencing. This new section does not supplant the existing section which, as you know, permits board members to participate remotely by video only if the public is provided with notice of and accessibility to that member's location.

The new provision §103-a expands the ability to meet using remote access video technology without the added public notice and accessibility requirements, but only under "extraordinary circumstances". Unfortunately, the term is not defined, instead §103-a lists the examples "disability, illness, caregiving responsibilities, or any other significant or unexpected factor or event which precludes the member's physical attendance at such meeting."

The Village has discretion whether to authorize the option in §103-a. But in order to benefit from the expanded remote opportunity, the Village Board must adopt a local law authorizing use of videoconferencing and establishing procedures for its use. The law may also authorize the option for the Village's other boards and committees which are subject to Open Meetings Law.

Based on your guidance, I am prepared to draft a local law regarding §103-a and assist the staff with appropriate language for legal notices and agendas going forward. On Friday, I attended an informational session with the Director of the Committee on Open Government and was able to pose questions and get some answers on your behalf, including confirmation of some specific language as acceptable for both a law and notices. It was clearly stated that the Village need not create a comprehensive list of qualifying "circumstances" and could provide a more broad overview instead.

The Committee on Open Government is conducting another informational session with Q&A on May 19 at 10:00 am. I am attaching the flyer for this event should you or staff be interested in participating.



OPEN MEETING LAW  
VIRTUAL INFORMATION SESSION  
\*\*PRE-REGISTRATION REQUIRED\*\*

**Date:** Thursday, May 19, 2022  
**Time:** 10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.  
**Location:** Webex Virtual Information Session

Kristin O'Neill, Assistant Director of the Committee on Open Government, will be presenting a virtual Open Meetings Law training program on Thursday, May 19, 2022 from 10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

**Continuing Education Credit not provided.**

The program will consist of a one-hour overview of the statute, followed by 30 minutes of a question-and-answer period.

Pre-registration is required, however, all registrations, up to 500 participants, will be automatically approved.

Pre-registration is required, however, all registrations, up to 500 participants, will be automatically approved. **You will receive a confirmation email from WebEx with instructions for joining the session. If you do not see the confirmation e-mail, please check your spam or junk folder.** Committee staff is not able to provide WebEx technical support.

The program will be recorded and available on the Committee's website within a week of the session.

Topic: Updates to the Open Meetings Law  
Host: Kristin O'Neill  
Date: Thursday, May 19, 2022  
Time: 10:00 am, Eastern Daylight Time (New York, GMT-04:00)  
Session number: 161 610 6758  
Session password: kPGMxnKC333

-----  
To register for this training session  
-----

Go to <https://meetny.webex.com/meetny/k2/j.php?MTID=t039adad96aae8f6fea7d60fa5bbb18a8> and register.