

Town Meeting Study Committee Minutes

4/12/2018

Committee in Attendance: Beth Murphy, Erin Underhill, Jim McCaffrey, Jim Angelo, Craig Schultze, Mary Russo

Not In Attendance: Mark Conroy

Topic: Behavior/ Logistics

How do we encourage respectful behavior and provide for a smooth meeting?

- Constable:
 - Encourage Constables to be more assertive. Constables should be “assistants” to the moderator, reminding Voters to be on best behavior.
 - Moderator can call on them if needed, to address areas or groups that may need special reminders to be respectful.
 - Constables can be a “intermediary” step, more of a polite reminder, not as intimidating as the police officer on duty.
- Everything through the mic.
 - In addition to the stand up mic’s, can we have two hand held mic’s that the constables or tellers pass to the middle of rows, to speed up people walking to the mic stands.
 - Make sure all the mic’s are working... One for the Moderator, three on FinCom, One for Selectmen, two stand up, and two hand held. If we have people in the Café, then we need one in there as well.
- Everyone must be seated or outside the room. Eliminate the standing in the back.
- Most inappropriate behavior seems to be on social media, and that is beyond the scope of this committee.
- How do we educate single issue voters, who may never have attended a Town Meeting in the past?

Erin read a list of comments from Pat Shogren into the record:

- Moderator needs to repeat the motion, since people need to hear and consider.
- Opposed to grouping of Articles... it is only two meetings per year, people can make the time needed for this.
- Meetings should be on Saturday morning.
- Send List Sever to parents to remind them of the meeting
- Use electronic and secrete ballots for every article with a value over \$200,000.

- Electronic voting should be paid for through the Clerks budget.
- Make a “Cheat Sheet” of Town Meeting terms and actions available at the Clerks Office, for people to pick up prior to TM.
- Lease (not purchase) electronic voting machines for each meeting... cost is \$24,000 for 500 machines, so \$48,000 per year.

Motion to Adjourn at 8:40, motion made by C. Schultze, Second by B. Murphy. Passed Unanimously.