

Town Meeting Date Committee

Wednesday, November 1, 2023

Present Tom Ziobrowski, Chair; Alison Despathy, Alison Low, Eric Hutchins; Alice Kitchel, Glenn Herrin, Clayton Cargill; No members of the public present.

Meeting opened at 7:06. Minutes approved with corrections.

Alice contacted Susan Clark. She can come and talk to our committee. Danville Library has a copy of her book. She is “pro-town meeting”, according to Alice. She has outlined a number of measures that we should consider to improve participation TMD. Alice spoke of the “social capital” – actions to build community -- that we already have at TMD. Nevertheless, Glenn pointed out that we do need to consider AB despite the fact that he was “on the same page” and a believer in the value of TMD. Are we getting the underserved communities? Maybe circulate information to newcomers in town. But a lot of that already happens with the moderator.

Points of conversation:

- Some talk about SB2 – Duxbury has adopted a (somewhat) similar model. It does require a certain period of time between the town meeting and the AB because of state statute.
- Clayton mentioned that no action that we take should be based on the attendance at 2023, which was an anomaly.
- Alice is going to invite Susan Clark to a meeting.
- Alison L is going to reach out to Craftsbury (Freedom and Unity) and see if there is a possibility of a joint meeting to share findings and experiences.

We ran through the slide show, and the bulk of time was spent on this. The purpose of the slide show is to reaffirm with the SB and Schoolboard our mission to share what we are doing.

Glenn to make corrections, send back out to individuals, who can submit corrections – technical corrections only, since substantive changes cannot be made without a quorum. School board meeting 11/7, SB 11/16. Both start at 6:00.

Discussions about the survey were tabled. Individuals can continue to brainstorm survey questions.

Next meeting is December 6th at 7:00.

The meeting adjourned at 9:04.

Respectfully submitted,

Alison Low