

Town Meeting Day Committee

Meeting notes, April 3, 2024

Called meeting to order at 7:05.

Clayton Cargill, Eric Hutchins, Tom Ziobrowski, Glenn Herrin, Alice Kitchel, Alison Low, Alison Despathy. No visitors.

Approved meeting minutes, March 6th. Glenn moved to approve, Clayton seconded. All voted in favor to approve with Alison L and Eric abstaining.

Glenn will have the draft report ready for the next meeting. Alice Kitchel will provide photos to include in it.

We reviewed the survey results. The results are nuanced. There is a slight majority of respondents who do NOT want to have Australian ballot in place of a floor meeting. However, all respondents indicated a preference for AB when asked about election of town officials, general and highway budgets, and school budgets. It's probably because most people prefer some hybrid form of conducting business.

Approximately half of respondents were retired. Their preference was for a floor meeting. The other half – employed – had a preference for AB.

Reasons for floor meetings most cited – face-to-face discussions, civic and civil engagement. Reasons most cited for AB – inability to attend TMD because of work, and the need to broaden participation. Alison L will upload raw data and will compile a draft report for next TMD.

Clayton noted concerns about recommending major changes. Perhaps better to recommend a series of incremental changes? All members should contemplate what suggestions to put forth for next meeting, which is May 1. We discussed making suggestions that the voters will support, such as asking the SB to appoint a TMD showrunner and/or an ad hoc committee, or establishing a civic engagement committee to meet less frequently, etc.

We are close to being done – about two or three months of meetings left.

The meeting adjourned at 8:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Alison Low