

MINUTES (UNAPPROVED)

The Woodbury Town Meeting Study Committee met Thursday, May 5, at 6 p.m., remotely (via Zoom).

Attending were all committee members: Ellie Hayes, Gwen Marsha, Jonah Meacham, Jayne Nold-Laurendeau, Alex Peltz, and John Reid, chair.

Public attending: Diana Peduzzi

This was the first meeting of the committee appointed by the Select Board to consider how Woodbury should be conduct its annual Town Meeting Day business.

Options in Vermont were summarized, as following:

- 1) In-person town meeting in which all voting is done at the meeting, and articles can be amended; what Woodbury does. Possible variations are to change the day of the meeting (Tuesday is the official day, but a town may meet on Saturday, Sunday or Monday), or the time of the meeting.
- 2) Australian ballot, which can be for any combination of: 1) town officials, 2) budget questions, 3) any other business. Articles voted by Australian ballot cannot be amended.
- 3) A hybrid, which is a town meeting at which articles are discussed and amended but not voted on. Then, a subsequently warned meeting in which the articles are decided by Australian ballot. This has been tried in one Vermont town but then deemed too complicated and dropped.

The committee decided to next gather information about what works and doesn't in other small Vermont towns, and survey town voters on their preferences.

Meetings will generally be held on the 1st and 3rd Thursday at 6 p.m. The posted agenda preceding each meeting will include details on how to participate (in person or remotely).