

Woodbury Town Meeting Study Committee
MINUTES (UNAPPROVED)
Thursday, June 2, 2022
Community Room, Woodbury Community Library & via Zoom

Committee members present: Ellie Hayes (Zoom), Jayne Nold-Laurendeau, Jonah Meacham, Alex Peltz, John Reid
Guests present: Peter Peltz, Diana Peduzzi

1. Minutes of previous meeting

Motion moved to approve by Jonah, seconded by Jayne 6:04pm.

2. General discussion about survey:

Gather input from residents about their opinions on current town meeting (TM) structure. Goals: how do we structure another phase of TM to serve more residents. What are barriers to TM participation?

Recap of Susan Clark presentation: Benefits of TM, recommendations for improving engagement/attendance, challenges to these improvements.

Peter made comment about Frank Bryan's idea that it's the truest form of democracy.

John: We've started the information gathering phase and have a good idea of what those solutions might be. We might be ready to move to the "solutioning" phase.

Diana: Does Select Board vote on zoning or do registered voters? That shift from select board to residents might bring more people into town engagement.

Peter: Maybe we don't need zoning, as many other neighboring towns don't. There are challenges of administration that prohibit enforcement.

Jonah: Preamble of survey should address the vote to retain TM and focus on ways to improve it from here.

3. Discussion of survey questions, structure, and delivery

Discussion of survey questions and survey delivery. Decision generally made to focus on digital survey with postcard mailed to registered voters with link to survey form and option to contact town clerk for optional physical survey.

Proposal to mail postcards to all registered voters.

Jonah proposed multiple column on survey on single survey form to account for more people in the household.

Discussion about how to engage new elected officers in town, in particular auditors and select board members. General discussion about possible town "operators' manual" and welcome package for new residents – both recently moved and newborns.

4. Survey Mechanics

- Online + Postcard mailing to all households.
- John to draft postcard and compile mailing list.
- Front Porch Forum`
- Facebook group
- Public posting: post office, town office, school,

Jonah and Alex to draft survey for committee review at special meeting on Thurs June 9.

Proposal to change committee name to "Town Meeting Solutions Committee"

Motion and approval to adjourn meeting 7:12pm