

Disposition of Open Town Meeting Reforms

Purposes/Categories of Potential Reforms:

- a. Increasing Town Meeting Public Engagement
- b. Electronic Voting at Town Meeting
- c. Town Meeting Time and Location
- d. Town Meeting Efficiency
- e. Miscellaneous Town Meeting Reforms

No.	Potential Reform	Intended/Purported Benefit	Committee Disposition
1	Hold one-day meetings on weekend	Concentrates meeting to one day	Not endorsed
2	Hold Town Meeting in multiple locations around Town	Reduces logistical barriers (travel time, parking, etc.)	Not endorsed
3	Adopt in-person electronic voting	Shortens meeting, allows confidential voting	Endorsed
4	Consolidate discussion of related articles even if separate votes are required	Shortens meeting, makes the context of articles more understandable	Endorsed
5	Support Town Meeting endorsement of conduct that is civil, honest, respectful of the time of others, and respectful of the right of others to speak	Encourages efficient, inclusive, civil, and honest debate	Endorsed

6	Recommend that remote electronic voting be actively explored by the Town as technological and legal dimensions are better understood over time	Provides clear statement of interest for inclusion in report, and allows for continued consideration as new facts emerge	Endorsed
7	Prohibit events on Town/School property during Town Meeting nights. SC and SB make decisions and phase-in with notice to residents.	Eliminates conflicting demands for voters' time	Endorsed
8	Encourage submission of amendments for public review prior to Town Meeting and give priority in consideration to those amendments that are pre-filed.	Shortens meeting, eliminates cause of voter confusion, enables legal review and public vetting	Endorsed
9	Allow for a vote on an article before consideration is given to an amendment	Saves time debating non-starter amendments	Not endorsed
10	Hold perennial fall Town Meeting for zoning/planning articles ---- discipline by boards and private articles, administering in fall elections.	Gives fuller hearing to zoning and planning articles and shortens spring meeting	Not endorsed

11	“Bifurcation”--- See 3/26 subcommittee meeting minutes for description of format	Facilitates remote participation on deliberation (though not remote voting)	Endorsed
12	Enhance the Town Manager’s pre-Town Meeting Reviews	Provide residents the opportunity to ask questions of article proponents and study issues before Town Meeting, shortening the Town Meeting	Withdrawn
13	Support policy that Town governance be reviewed every X no. of years	Provides regular opportunity for review of governance in the context of current circumstances	Not endorsed
14	Designate an advocate(s) at Town Meeting to relay resident feedback during article discussions	Allows residents who cannot attend Town Meeting to have their sentiments expressed	Not endorsed
15	Provide online Town Meeting training videos re process, the budget, zoning, etc.	Makes process less daunting and encourages attendance, and smoother debate of complex articles	Endorsed
16	Provide “welcome packet” orienting new residents on Town Meeting. This should include a letter from the Town Manager and links to training materials	Makes process less daunting to and encourages attendance among new residents	Endorsed