

# TOWN MEETING SURVEY 2015: COMMENTS

## Question 1 Overall Satisfaction - Comments

Individual responses
Seats were too small.
We had a lot to do - "bundling" articles was effective. I do feel that we went very late but I understand why.
Need to be back at Cary
The seat size was not a good fit for my body.
It moved much more quickly than previous Town Meetings have run.
Logistics at LHS were well considered and appeared to run smoothly
seating was cramped
I felt like people did not sufficiently recognize the expertise of the consultants that the town had hired to look into issues such as traffic. That people were trying to micromanage, with very little grasp of the complexities of issues
Moved right along but I didn't feel rushed or discouraged from participating.
Very fair
Given the number of articles, TM was handled most efficiently. In the future, I would be in favor of a longer consent agenda.
On now topic in particular, the medical marijuana article, while I feel the presenter was not ready for prime time, there was one speaker at the no microphone that spoke at length about the general use of marijuana. It felt like Reefer Madness. I think it was off topic and wondered if those types of comments can be stopped, if they are not to the point of the article.
We got through an amazing amount of business.
venue introduced difficulties, but generally it went well
I feel citizens who come out to speak should get preference.Perhaps alternating with each TMM.
difficult site
The venue was challenging but considering that it was fine.
Busy warrant and we still finished "early."
The moderator does a fine job of sustaining the momentum of the sessions. She also keeps us abreast of the articles to be covered on a given night.
Still too much time on articles of relative insignificance.
The same individuals speak too often. Points of view are repeated too often. If one does not have a new information/opinion to offer then the should not repeat what was previously said. Lots of paper is wasted - info should be only electronic and members shoul scan the info so they can ask appropriate, informed questions.
The high school auditorium was not the best but I understand since Cary was not available.
Evenings too long.

Will comment further later in survey.
Too many people repeating the same points created an extended time session on some days.
Some articles simply took too long. I think we should consider time limits with an option to extend the time. Starting complex articles close to 10:00 pm is frustrating and I don't think people are as efficient when it gets late.
The acoustics were better in LHS than the Old Battin Hall but the seats were tight
I wish we had drawn out the debate on some issues longer. More discussion of issues rather than people being unwilling to have another night or two.
The sound system in LHS was fantastic. Hearing assistance mostly not needed.
It went faster than I expected! The high school auditorium was murky. It was difficult to see and difficult to move around, and perhaps this kept some of our more prolix members in check.
Too many unnecessary questions from the ? mic. TMMA leadership needs to school its members on what constitute appropriate questions that facilitate debate and improve members' ability to decide how to vote.

### Questions 2 & 3 Electronic Voting - Comments

Individual responses
I went early for pre TM meetings so it was never a problem to pick it up. I sometimes had trouble finding the person in my precinct to hand it to at the end (I am on a committee and do not sit with my precinct.)
For the few who had problems, might it be of value to tell members to hold the button of choice until they see the acknowledgement? That's what I have been doing rather than just a push-and-release.
Efficient and informative. May have a somewhat coercive effect on close votes.
We have a very efficient precinct clerk who is ready to collect the devices. I sit near her!
It seems like initiating a vote was more technically complicated this year than previously. I assume it was partly due to a new crew operating the machinery.
Love it; it's so easy to do/use and the results are posted in real time. It reflects our very open process.
As the "collector" of the voting devices for my precinct, I found that the HS Auditorium was not as convenient as Cary Hall to collect the devices.
Turning in all units to 1 precinct member each night was effective.
When the results are shown, the slides go too fast. Can they remain on the screen for a little longer?
the staff are very pleasant, a smile and warm hello each night.
klutzy, awkward
Pct 6 clerk did not collect the voting devices but the chair did
Being the clerk of a precinct took longer than it should have because my precinct members continually left their devices at the front table instead of returning them to me (even though the instructions were clear).
I like the double layer of ID confirmation on "checking in".
Very pleased - more effective than I expected
After the 5 years of prep, it's good to see it working so well.
The pct 6 clerk was never available to collect the devices; however one of our TMMs unofficially took on this

task.
It would be handy if there was an easier way to check out rather than burdening the Pct Clerk
There must be a better way to turn in the devices. Please consider a series of boards with hooks in the lobby.
maybe there could be a better holder for the cards so that it's faster for the clerks to find each one... like a book with tiered slots so that the name or number shows without having to awkwardly leaf through them.
A great addition to TM an well worth the money
works really well
Checkout was difficult because the Pct. clerks could potential be on the other side of the hall from where you were. This again was a problem with LHS.
Checkin was better because there was more room in the hallway
Serving as a clerk, sometimes I have to sort through a "pile" of devices to record who turned them in. Not particularly time consuming, but wonder if there is a more efficient way to collect them. "Stuffing" them in a bag and holding on to them while recording those turned in is a bit awkward, too, but I can live with it! I will try to think of a better way!
the double step of check in seems unnecessary.
One day I hope there are bins for each preceint with 21 slots in each with our name. We can go, pick up and then leave it there when we leave. This honor system can save some time and labor.
A little too long
It's great!
It was some times hard to get to our designated receiver
I appreciated the Moderator's decision to take a voice vote in a situation where the voice vote was faster. Once we are accustomed to the electronic voting, I don't think we need 30 seconds. I do think it is very important to go all the way through the voting results TWO FULL cycles so you can be sure about your vote. If you blink, you can miss seeing your precinct.
Could move more quickly.
The burden of collecting the devices for each precinct fell on a few. Hard to get others to help collect.
It works. Keeps members engaged.
I would like to propose that the moderator examine allowing votes to be seen during the voting period. Either at a minimum indicating that a vote had been received and/or what the vote is. This might help ensure everyone's vote does get counted.
E-voting is not quicker than most voice calls but it is accurate and avoids the hassles of voice or standing voting on close decisions. It's one of the best things we have done in recent memory.
Collection of the devices can be a scramble, especially when the precinct clerk is absent or has left early.

#### **Question 4 Preparation: Meetings and Hearings - Comments**

Individual responses
I'm a committee member, so I often attended other meetings in a liaison or just information basis.
Rely on reports of committees, budget books, conversations with other TMMs
You should include a category for "other methods" of keeping up-to-date. For example, newspaper articles,

etc. keeping up-to-date with info process.
I watch some meetings on LexNmedia.
I love being able to watch meetings I'm unable to attend.
CPC meetings are held on weekday afternoons and not recorded on LexMedia as far as I can tell. This committee should hold evening meetings to allow more TMM's who work to attend.
As a new TM member, I was unaware of these meetings--thought we just had to rely on their reports.
No
Read the news
I would love to see the data on this. It has ramifications on what we should be doing at the TMMA Info Sessions. ..Andy
Understand the vue,m very difficult to find the time with small children at home.
For meetings like AC and CPC where video isn't recorded by Lexmedia, it would be very helpful if a member could make audio recording of meetings on their smartphone and give them to lexmedia to upload, or somehow make them available online.
LWV First Friday topics were interesting, but I couldn't attend weekday mid-morning events.
I really rely on printed materials and, generally on presentations at town meeting or information sessions. I check the Minuteman newspaper, too, as well as TMMA web site and a "listserv" to which I subscribe.
Mea culpa: restraints of age lead me to emphasize information and discussion by way of TMMA listserve.
AC and CEC are not on LexMedia - and I think they should be. It is hard to attend everything and the opportunity to watch allows people to stay informed. The finance committees have a great deal of influence and they are not as transparent if you must attend to stay informed.

### Question 5 Documents (Electronic/Paper) - Comments

Individual responses
Would welcome an opt-out -of-the-printed-version process. Public Schools Budget Book would have been my first of those to invoke the opt-out.
Plenty of information out there for those who make the effort to access it.
Sometimes I could not find the motions in the back on the hall
Always appreciate floor debate
I always find any information provided by any source to be helpful.
Precinct 3 never received the Town Warrants in the Mail. That is inexcusable. The Lexington PO is terribly run. Someone from the Town should take them to task. I mean all of Precinct 3 on Concord Ave., Walnut Street, and Potter Pond never received their warrants.
TMMA book on the warrant is always very helpful
I find the TMMA book very useul
I found the TMMA's booklet on all the warrant issues the most helpful.
In the School Budget Book, would like to see a "Program Summary" by line item as there is in the "Brown Book".
Article sponsor material was too little too late.
I feel that so much information is given at town meeting and in discussion on the TMMA list, that if I

read all of the reports cover to cover, I'll get impatient hearing it again at the actual meeting. I use them as references to look up particular information rather than reading the whole thing.
Most helpful to me is the TMMA information book. Then the committee reports
Should explore the balance between online and hard-copy books.
The TMMA Warrant Information Report is extremely useful and helpful!
Electronic copies would be helpful.
Did not receive the Town Warrant in the mail.
Too much material to read.
Too much paper waste. online would be better with wifi access at location
No paper info - only electronic.
The amount of paper was overwhelming.
PowerPoint provided beforehand would be helpful
Budget books had errors (though small) made it a little difficult to understand details. With the tight schedules even small errors make a difference.
was disappointed in the process for providing descriptive text to explain a warrant article that I submitted. I felt the warrant description did not accurately describe the article, but I was not given the opportunity to review the language or to offer a draft description.
Please explore the idea of a town-wide consolidated report when possible. For example - AC and CEC frequently report on the same articles and their opinions could be consolidated into a single document on an article basis.
As always, the written materials were superb and extremely helpful.

### Question 6 Presentations (at Town Meeting) - Comments

Individual responses
The oral reports help to put things in context
The approvals are usually unanimous in support and don't pay attention to a cost/benefit analysis.
full disclosure - I'm on the CPC.
Individual presentations for the items in the CPC Article consume far too much time during TM.
The School capital items needs more oral explanation - there was none.
Presenters did a great job.
I feel these are very important.
These are needed assuming some TMMs don't read the printed material.
Minority reports presented by boards and committees sometimes received undue emphasis - in particular some of the CEC minority presentations were lengthy while the main presentation was a brief - we support this statement. This left Town Meeting with little understanding of the different rationale used by the majority and gave the majority opinion less weight.
Kudos to the presenters from these groups! PowerPoint presentations complemented the oral reports and written materials.
I don't think that [redacted – BOS member] should have given a minority report as the sole opposition. Perhaps minority reports should only be given when two opposing votes are made and only in controversial

matters.
Am constantly amazed and endlessly appreciative of all the work the various committees put in - bravo!
CPC's presentations are far far far too long. They could try two sentences each and allow us to pull out anything that we want further information about. Some people don't even attend that night because they anticipated too much wasted time. With the exception of the Civic District Planning Board report, I thought Planning did a good job this year. Shorter and more clear, they were helpful and used time well.
BOS presentation regarding traffic signaling seemed intentionally vague, possibly disingenuous at times(?). It felt as though they were rolling out various "signal light projects" in piecemeal, with the intention of trying to get TMMs to approve all of the projects without realizing that the Town would wind up with new lights at 5 or more intersections over a 2.5 mile span. They could and should have been more transparent.
Minority positions dominated oral presentation in some cases diluting the primary committee recommendation.

### Question 7 TMMA Activities and Resources - Comments

Individual responses
I do not find that the TMMA info report contains new/better information than the reports of the committees - it seems like a lot of work to produce a document of little value.
I find the TMMA Information Book to be of little value. TMMA authors should make up the list of questions to ask; provide them to the Town Manager, and have them explicitly answered at the applicable Information Session. Further, because of the early printing, it's often incomplete or inaccurate. Better left to the Finance Committees' and Community Preservation Committee's Reports.
I tend to keep off the TMMA website as I have been reminded in the past of the number of emails I wrote.
Information book is excellent resource but this year was not as robust with information.
Now that the Town website is hosting TM documents and reports in a very efficient manner, the TMMA website has become somewhat redundant, but they don't seem to realize it yet. The TMMA should stop hosting TM reports.
As usual, great job.
The bus tour was very well run. The visit to the Hastings School was particularly important and very well run by everyone who ran the tours.
being able to discuss issues on email, in advance, is very helpful to the group, and airs opinions that might not have been considered before the annual meeting
I don't find the list-serve as much of a resource as a political tool that some members use quite effectively to debate in advance without a moderator. I wish it were only used as an informational resource.
Need to know and reinforce what actually the ex Committee does and do Warrant go thru is one Is it just hearing from what has been in the newspapers or what really can they do or should do to help the citizens and town
This data will impact how we might improve things.
The TMMA Warrant Info book was almost entirely useless this year -- many articles were simply copied from the Brown Book. Also, the bus tour was marred by an entirely inappropriate presentation (about the high

school dance) by [redacted – TM member]
TMMA Info sessions were poorly planned and poorly moderated. Attempts to shorten presentations and focus on questions yielded poor results (many TMMs were seeing an issue for the first time and needed a full presentation to be able to ask relevant questions)
Other commitments prevented me from attending the information sessions and bus tour. I wonder, however, if we really do need the information sessions, since, essentially, the same information is presented at Town Meeting.
One of the info sessions was much too long.
Google great for real information but the debate is out of control. there should be a separate group for that with an opt-out option.
The TMMA information sessions held in Science Lecture Hall were the most helpful because presenters were able to give coherent presentations and provide rationales for proposals. The Q&A after each presentation was especially valuable in helping to solidify a position and/or identify questions or uncertainties. These sessions helped me to understand and think about issues before they came up at TM. The TM information book was useful as a reference.
Emails sometimes seemed to be discussions 2 or 3 people only. Occasionally comments appeared irrelevant or inappropriate. Overall, however, this is valuable and useful forum.
There should be *no debate* allowed at information sessions.
It might be my personal oversight, but I did not know there were TMMA sessions on LexMedia
Love the bus tour - it is always very helpful. There is a lot to cover - but the time spent with other members and the ability to see things in person is a real advantage in preparation for Town Meeting. Thanks to everyone who puts it together.
Bus tour was frustrating in that the guide used the event to promote her viewpoint rather than a more neutral approach.
TMMA info sessions were less structured than in previous years. Attempts to reduce redundancy by limiting presentation and relying on questions backfired.

**Question 8 Information Quantity and Quality: Reflecting upon all the information available to assist your decision making at Town Meeting, please share any additional thoughts you have on the quantity and quality of that information.**

Individual responses
Committees all do terrific jobs
Would hope one day that the Motions could be streamed to mobile devices.
Town presentations were not sufficiently developed on Center Streetscape and parking articles. Not clear enough as to the process by which decisions were reached and proposals completed.
The approach is generally that every expenditure is worthwhile. Money is rarely an issue.
Need the motions in electronic form in a timely manner; Need enough hard copies available
Too much information! The Brown Book is overwhelming.
Impressed by the quality of digital packet documentation the Town Manager provided via town network on Wright Farm-members were able to download in advance of meeting plans/documentation in digital form to read on digital devices /Ipad.



Seemed to be less paper - Great as long as there enough copies for all members
There is a great deal of information to absorb during TM. The SC produces a great deal of it, but theirs is also the least useful information per page because they don't adjust their content for TM versus school parents. I'm also appalled by the amount of full color hardcopy output that is distributed, since it is fairly expensive.
I always find all information to be helpful.
I think there was plenty of information and most of it was of very high quality.
I think the quality of prepared info is very high and the quantity is huge. A good summary will be very beneficial.
Too much of TMMA info report was just copies from brown book or other sources
I think the quality of information is very high - would be great to have the quantity of paper documents reduced with electronic copies easily made and available.
Felt like some of my time was wasted because many of the presentations in the information sessions was exactly what was presented at TM.
Minority reports should be allotted the same amount of time as the majority reports
Topic of affordable housing Looking for statistics Who lives there How long How many from lexington How many from lexington living beyond 30 years Statistics if available be helpful for our mission
Given this electronic age, we need to improve how TMMs can access reports and presentations on laptops/iPads. This will be facilitated with wifi being included in the Cary renovations.
I wish there were some way of persuading more TMMs to attend info meetings! They ARE useful -- but the info all has to be repeated at Town Meeting!
Many of the visuals had too much information on one screen and not enough formatting. Often the color of the letters blended into the background color.
It seems like a lot, but it's all there if one has questions.
Posting presentations online was very helpful.
It was not bad but not great.
An amazing value produced by volunteers
There is more info than can be digested
I felt like a lot of information was available that was helpful to me in making voting decisions.
most of it was helpful
Both quantity and quality are fine. Should explore finding the balance between online and hard-copy books. Some may be more comfortable w/online access; wi-fi MIGHT help make online access more acceptable.
I wish all documentation was available electronically - that could download as a single package. I find it difficult navigating all the hard copy.



There is so much info that it is tough to sort through it all. Most of it is necessary, but it can be overwhelming.
I am not sure how useful the formal information sessions are to me personally. Perhaps they give the presenters a hint of what they will face at TM sessions and there is value in that!
If anything, maybe there was too much info to read all of it.
I believe it is a huge amount but needed.
Electronic copies of the printed ppt handouts would be helpful.
Brown Book and School Report are information overload. Need more convenient summaries. TMMA Info Report seems perfunctory, should provide more analysis and insight.
More analysis/data would have been helpful for a number of the Warrant articles.
Discussions, clarification, pros and cons on listserv most helpful.
Excellent - it would be nice if there could be a brief essential summerization and recommendation from the Town Manager.
I wish residents had a more direct way of reaching out to Town Meeting, or that Town Meeting Members had a more direct way of reaching out to their constituents.
I had read the newspaper articles and the town warrant very carefully. I found that presentations and discussion were very helpful in addition to the background I had gained from my research.
The TMMA information book is most useful when background or position statements were supplied. For important and/or controversial articles, it would be useful to have brief position statements for both sides of the issue, like the booklets put out by the state for referenda/articles up for vote in state elections. This would involve more work, but the idea would be to present a balanced view by allowing proponents from both sides to present arguments.
The information, notably in long reports, may appear very detailed. But it's important for TMMs to be as well informed as possible.
Apt for the meetings.
I am always impressed with the high quality and the thoughtfulness of the materials.
I wish that other members might gather more information before speaking on the night. It seems as if things would move a lot faster
Lack of information is the fault of the member. The information is available,
As a warrant author, I submitted info to TMMA for the guide, but this info was not included.
Most of the information is well prepared and very informative. Boards should automatically have to present the summary of any dissenters. I felt as though we still had to prompt them on occasion to present this information (which I sometimes find valuable). arjugbl
The materials offered during TM itself and the TMMA information book are by far the most important to me, given limitations of time.
Some reports are too long. Judging by the questions that are asked, some town meeting members do not have enough time to read all of the material that is produced.
Timing for info session was loose and caused sessions to run long - reducing opportunity for presentation for some items
I would like to receive more information electronically in advance, such as the slides for presentations. I was grateful the Town Manager started to do this in response to Kevin Johnson's request. Would like to see more materials made available this way on the Town website.

### Question 9 Handling of Article 4 (Operating Budget) Motion - Comments

Individual responses
Saved time.
The Moderator makes T.M. bearable.
New practice seemed to work well
Members need to understand the magnitude of the dollars being spent annually.
Please keep the new practice.
Being a new member, I don't have anything else to compare it to....
Good idea
Members should read or be prepared
With respect to public perception, just don't put it on the consent agenda :) .
This seemed to work very well!
Due to surgery, I missed a week of meetings, thereby missed most of Article 4. In general, all efforts by the Moderator to shorten the amount of time by either grouping motions, etc., was very beneficial to moving along the process.
Everyone can read; we're more concerned about time.
There is absolutely no need to read the motion line by line.
When you recite the numbers the mind focuses otherwise it just looks at the title.
Reading only the heading saved time and was adequate since we had the text of the motion before us.
Not reading line-by-line MAY give the impression of 'rubbing stamping.'
Thank you.
This was a wonderful innovation.

### Question 10 Consent Agenda – Comments

Individual responses
Great idea and it was carried out well.
But would want the Moderator's policy continued where any single objection from any member of any formal Board or Committee would disallow an Article/Motion being included in the Consent Agenda. Even continuing that policy, I believe there will be even at least a few more Articles/Motions that will qualify for inclusion.
Strong affirmative. Saved time on articles unlikely to be contested. Moderator should continue her policy of removing an article from the consent agenda if anyone requests it.
Yes, yes, yes!
Very streamlined approach
Absolutely; let's keep this practice.
This was a Godsend! The consent agenda was a great idea.

Some discussion could have been more satisfying
But since those go so quickly anyway, it doesn't matter much. Did like the fact that anyone can object if they wish.
Continue with consent agenda if unbundling is made possible by a request (standing) of 30 or more TMMs
In prep. for future long Warrants, expand the consent agenda to include things always approved, e.g., water/sewer upgrades.
Fine job this year picking the non-controversial articles this year.
Works well. TM must be permitted to remove articles for separate vote if the occasion arises and TMMs vote to do it.
As long as members are able to easily pull out items for individual votes, the consent agenda is a fine way to deal with these items.
Wonderful. Thanks for saving time!
Absolutely.
As long as there is a mechanism to pull out a particular article and to vote on it separately.
That worked well and saved much time.
This is a good idea and should be expanded if possible.
I think it's a great idea to have them to save time.
Concerned about slipping in an item that should really have more attention.
I found the consent agenda very efficient.
The Consent Agenda was a brilliant idea.
Depends on the sub agendas. If one or more sub agendas are linked to another issue/article or requires a different debate then we separate them out.
Thank you.
Consider expanding it.
One can always request that something be removed from the Consent Agenda.
Saves a great deal of time. TM is already a huge time commitment.
As above.

### **Question 11 Meeting Duration (8 nights) - Comments**

#### Individual responses

I do not think the moderator could have shortened it - there were so many articles and so many people feel they need to be heard!

That is because of the number of Articles and the generally useful debate. There is no "just right" length that isn't judged against the challenge presented by the nature and number of the Articles/Motions.

Too long, but I see no way of making it any shorter.

There is still substantial efficiencies that could be implemented , including setting a much higher bar for citizen petitions, having test votes before discussion, and forcing questions to be brief and on topic

As usual, half the questions from the floor indicated a serious lack of preparation, or failed to focus on the issue at hand.

Not all were too long, just some.
Kudos for getting through a long agenda in 8 sessions
Most of the meetings were the right length, but there were some where many citizens spoke in favor of an article that passed unanimously.
while the total number of days the event ran for was just right, many of the evenings were rather late and TM's left early which affected turnouts of votes. I'd have rather stayed another couple of days.
But this survey is already too long at the 11th question
Eliminate redundancy . The long term members and senior leaders with Debra and her team can figure out best
Adding to the consent list could shorten it.
Liked having one night just for citizen's articles.
Spending a whole evening on the Church steeple was too much. Then we rushed through the last articles too fast. We need to control the length of time on some articles.
TM was handled efficiently without excessive "editorializing".
I was actually surprised that we got done when we did!
It is what it is. Some years it will be short and some longer depending on what is on the table.
It is what it is, what is important is giving each item as much time as it needs
I'm having a harder time after 10 pm than I did not that many years ago.
It was great to finish before school vacation - however some of the sessions went late into the night and thorny issues were decided as members grew more tired (and some left). We should consider tabling issues if the debate extends too long to allow fresh consideration (without having to rely on a reconsideration)
Should try to allow more citizen comments
We should always try to conclude the meeting by vacation week.
a couple of the sessions were a little too long
It is good when school related presentations are at 7pm with TM starting at 7:30. I believe the school diversity awards should not be given at TM.
I do not mean that the end date of the meeting was too late, but rather that the meetings ran too late at night. Since I am still working, and leave for work at a very early hour, I do not mean that the end date of the meeting was too late, but rather that the meetings ran too late at night. Since I am still working, and leave for work at a very early hour, I would prefer town meeting and between 1015 and 1030
I find that the individual sessions are too long. See how the attendance drops off during each evening! I do not mind the number of sessions.
Given the number of articles, we did good job ending in 8 nights.
It lasted as long as it did becx we had a large amt to deal with. There were a little to many repeat statements.
But really depends on trustworthy and completeness of information, and controversiality of subject.
One meeting too long.
Too late and too long. I would rather spread it out over several weeks and do once a week. Working parents with school aged-children should be better represented but given the intense time commitment they cant.
Moderator needs to urge members not to repeat the same point and only to add new info. No one should be able to speak twice on an issue without the moderators permission.

It is our job to address Town business on a timely basis and as fully as the issue requires. It takes as long as it takes (although I was very happy to have my evenings back).
7:30-10:30 max
This is difficult to answer since I feel town meetings need to last as long as needed to finish the business on the agenda.
This enabled us to complete agenda in shorter time. Occasionally, more time for consideration would have been a positive.
Again, too much was jammed in after 10PM.
The number of sessions was less of an issue than the late nights. I'd rather end earlier and go another session.
Definitely too short. We have too many important issues to debate regarding schools and other capital projects.
These issues need to be hashed out. Sometimes they could be longer sometimes they could be shorter. Overall though I think we get it right.
I felt that we rushed through town meeting excessively to meet the restrictions placed on us due to uncontrollable circumstances and
Admittedly this was a bigger than usual Warrant this year, but I felt some of the meetings lasted too long (I got home around 11pm several nights which is brutal the next day (I work in Boston). I think we could have cut short a few of the meetings and gone one extra night.
In some ways the meetings always seem too long, since each session is a marathon for us early-morning types. But at least this year there weren't as many meetings as the length of the warrant suggested.
It was great to end before school vacation - but some nights went too long and both the debate and attendance deteriorated toward the end of the night. Some of these issues might have benefited from tabling and continuing the debate on another night (which probably would have extended the meeting)
Complex and controversial articles should not be taken up late at night. Don't start anything hard after 9:30 PM... We lost too many members to the late night and had lower vote counts at the end of the evening. Should set a goal of adjourning by 10:30 PM

### **Question 12 New Member Workshop - Comments**

Individual responses
Not a new member; but usually a presenter and I was told the content was comparable to previous workshops where I was present.
Old TMM
When I was a new member, I found it to be very helpful.
Difficult to meet all of the people, learn committees and names and what they do in one session. Might ask attendees to read an overview before attending.
It might be helpful in the future to have a booklet featuring names of fellow TMM with pictures, years of service and such to help the newcomers get to know others as it is REALLY intimidating to enter a crowd that has been together for so long. Maybe also assign a TMM 'mentor' to each new TMM
While it was nice to meet all the committee heads, I felt that a lot of info was passed along, yet I had no real clue on how to prepare for the actual TM. I would also have liked a little more time spent on how the actual TM

would be run, eg how warrant items would be presented, how committee opinions would be solicited, etc.
Always learn even though one year old member
It was nice to meet the various players, but the content was variable. In some cases, the presentation was too broad and sketchy and in other cases the explanation went on too long. It would be good to start with an overview (in graphic or list form) so we can see the overall structure of town government and how the town bodies fit together. The amount of paper was overwhelming.
I had a conflicting schedule but I did get the summary from another new TMM. It seemed it was a very well done workshop.
I went to it three years ago and found it very helpful
I found it helpful years ago. It helps to break the ice.
This has been held for a number of years and should be continued.

### **Questions 13 & 14 Process and Parliamentary Procedure - Comments**

Individual responses
Probably should learn more
...Having been at this for a while.
These processes could be written out and distributed to all TMMs
Didn't know about the Consent Agenda before it was discussed.
Better understanding will come with more experience. Not worried about it.
As a relatively new TMM, lots to learn before feeling comfortable.
Moderator does a good job of explaining these at the beginning of each Town Meeting.
I think our relaxation of reconsideration rules is unfortunate. We should have a higher bar so people can't just try their luck again with a new vote on a different night. It has been a problem in past meetings and may be again in the future.
Reconsideration is murky.
We need clarity around reconsideration. Some people sounded genuinely unclear. Some people sounded like they were trying to use reconsideration (or refuse to use reconsideration) as a political weapon or strategy.
We should have a yearly meeting to allow TM members to get refreshers.
I think I am largely ineducable on parliamentary procedure, and not therefore representative!
It seems to me that most of the time a member rises for a point of personal privilege s/he should declare a point of order.

## Questions 15 & 16 Moderator: Feedback - Comments

Individual responses
Great job!
She's amazing!
Blank indicates n/a.
Outstanding. Has enormous respect for process and patience with members who are poorly informed or who have not attended meetings.
I did not need to contact moderator before, after or during Town Meeting
Deb Brown is a great gift to the Town. Gracious and competent.
Watching the moderator work her magic is one of the reasons I stay in town meeting!
Our Moderator was excellent!
The best there is to it Very polite humble and to the point thanks
To say nothing of bringing a wonderful sense of humor to TM.
I thought the Moderator occasionally teased some TMMs in a way that might be construed as less than entirely friendly, but I can't remember an instance.
I wrote Deb: > I think it would be helpful in general, to others as well as me, to announce before debate begins that 2/3 is needed (for articles that require it) since that info isn't in the Warrant or TMMA Info Report, though probably it should be. The 2/3 requirement shouldn't be announced just as voting starts when there's no time to ask a question about it.
really top notch moderator doing a terrific job
I wish we could convince both members and "citizens" to refrain from offering long "preambles" and to offer new information on a topic, rather than repeating what another speaker said.
Great job. Intelligent, competent and sensitive. Keep up the good work.
Moderator needs to be firmer with those members who talk too much and those that repeat already heard points.
Familiarity with some Town Meeting Members is nice and even cute, but does make the process potentially unfair to new or unknown Members.
The Town Moderator was excellent. She was very professional, well-versed in procedures, and ran everything smoothly. She was very good at presenting the rationale for every procedure and/or decision she enforced. She always delivered her comments in a very respectful manner. Her humor also added a nice touch to the proceedings.
Would like to see more priority given to the Citizen mike when high numbers are in attendance so that TMMs get as much public input as possible.
Moderator/s did a fantastic job. The whole town meeting was moderated to the highest level possible. Kudos!!
I appreciate the Moderator's sense of humor. It is a welcome relief at times.
I wish there was a "mostly" here. See comments below about the CEC's advocacy during several articles. It did not feel like our tradition. I think it would have been helpful to have our Moderator say something. My "No" bullets are focused on this issue. In short, members of CEC were frequently at microphones in the audience and taking positions or elaborating on arguments their chair already made. Even the CEC chair was advocating.
I generally appreciated the moderator's dry wit but occasionally there was a joking exchange with a member that could seem cutting to others.
I cannot imagine a better moderator.
The Moderator is extremely competent. The Deputy Moderator needs more training. She lacks confidence and shows it when she has to take over for Deb. TM would struggle mightily if anything were to happen to Deb!
You do a fantastic job, Deborah. My only quibble, as you know, was on the teasing of [redacted – TM member].
Kudos to Madame Moderator.



## Questions 17 & 18 Deputy Moderator: Feedback - Comments

Individual responses
Blank indicates no issue with DM's performance
TMM acted like school children with a substitute teacher - many tested her and did not respect her.
Deb S. is great!
The deputy moderator should be allowed to vote when not presiding. The pct 6 voters were denied one representative by not allowing her to vote.
The night she stepped in and ran the meeting, she did a highly competent job.
Same as moderator
Good job.
I think the deputy moderator did an outstanding job -- but she should NOT have had to abstain from voting on all articles, even those she was not required to rule on. As a result we lost the votes of a valuable member.
Sometimes could not identify the TMM.
Quite a few citizens who wanted to speak about the demolition delay were unable to. I prefer to see citizens given an oppty. to speak so that they continue to be interested in participating in town govt.
It is very difficult for the deputy moderator to get sufficient experience for her to be comfortable at the microphone - considering her limited experience she does a good job.
Did a fine job! Was well prepared! The learning curve for a moderator is a steep one and Ms. Strod rose to the occasion!
But she had little to do, so the questions are not really applicable.
She did fine. Unfair to rate on such a brief experience
The Deputy Moderator did a good job. She did not show quite as much confidence in the role as the regular Moderator, but the deputy is clearly quite capable and should be able to take good command of the role with some further experience.
I know Debbie had the gavel a time or two but don't remember her having to utter a word!
Deputy handled [redacted - TM Member's] situation well. Thank you.
She did well for her first time and I'm sure she will get more comfortable in the future.
She was new to the rôle and did not have much opportunity to shine.
See comments to Question 16 above.
Is this repeat an error? Why are we asked the same questions 3 times?
Overall, she did a good job.
Debbie did a GREAT job!!

## Question 21 Speaking at Town Meeting: I spoke because...

Individual responses
I often felt that clarification was warranted, along with stating my opinion.
I can play a role in deciding what direction to take
mostly at the question mic
I felt strongly about those issues which I addressed
There were unanswered questions.
I had a statement to make on behalf of the LWV of Lexington
I was preenting the Planning Board position.
I was concerned about the matter under consideration.
I wanted to make sure my unique views were shared with others for issues I felt particularly passionate about.
Questions
I had relevant questions
I felt somethings needed to besaid.
there was an issue which I knew additional info,
a specific view on an issue
the subject was one that I felt was in the best interest of the town.
I did not understand parts of the motion.
request or provide new information
members need to connect more with Planet Earth
I needed clarification of a fact important to the debate
I wanted to move the question!
I felt I had relevant information to share regarding a particular article.
I have questions and they get answered.
I needed clarification
usually I tried to clarify the motion.
I thought I could bring a fresh viewpoint based on my expertise and/or interest.
To move the question
I had an interest in an article
a particular issue is important to me that I feel would otherwise get no discussion.
I felt like a specific issue was not covered by other speakers and should be part of the debate
I wanted to get more information as well as expressing my concerns, or present new ideas.
I often felt that clarification was warranted, along with stating my opinion.
I can play a role in deciding what direction to take
mostly at the question mic
I felt strongly about those issues which I addressed
There were unanswered questions.
I had a statement to make on behalf of the LWV of Lexington
I was preenting the Planning Board position.
I was concerned about the matter under consideration.
I wanted to make sure my unique views were shared with others for issues I felt particularly passionate about.
Questions

I had relevant questions
I felt somethings needed to besaid.
there was an issue which I knew additional info,
a specific view on an issue
the subject was one that I felt was in the best interest of the town.
I did not understand parts of the motion.
request or provide new information
members need to connect more with Planet Earth
I needed clarification of a fact important to the debate
I wanted to move the question!
I felt I had relevant information to share regarding a particular article.
I have questions and they get answered.
I needed clarification

### **Question 22 Speaking at Town Meeting: I did not speak because...**

<b>Individual responses</b>
I am generally not comfortable speaking publicly
Learning participatory democracy and areas of knoweldge has been expressed via email to members and the rest
I am not comfortable pro or con
speaking to a large group from a mic is a challenge
My opinion is heard through other positions.
being my first year, I was more focused on learning the process and gaining some experience.
stage fright!
question was called. And just a general discomfort speaking to large groups.

### **Questions 21 & 22 Speaking at Town Meeting – Additional Comments**

<b>Individual responses</b>
I have had occasion to speak in other Town Meetings, and feel comfortable participating.
Some might say that I speak too much.
See above.
I have asked the question
What steps a citizen should do if they want to
have the town meeting members include their request --just not sure the process - may be there but would you be able to send us or to news papers how to etc
Occasionally, the questions at the question mike were rhetorical and not really questions to obtain information.
I do a lot more listening than speaking, but when I have spoken - only a few times since I have been a member -

I have felt that people listened respectfully to what I had to say.
I am not impelled to speak when I see the same people at the question mic asking questions that do not help me decide how to vote. TMMA ought to school some of our members on how to ask relevant questions that advance our understanding of the issues.
Many of the members liked to hear themselves talk and debate and I didnt want to become one of them
I am very careful about not speaking if my views have already been expressed. I only speak if I feel there is a point to make that had not been made.
When a few people dominate the question mic, it discourages others (me) from exercising that privilege. It becomes a matter of "Why bother?"

**Question 23 Constituent Contact: Topic(s) of Constituent questions or input**

Individual responses
Boards and commission appointments
Budget,
Center Street Scape
center street scapes,
Center streetscape
center streetscape
center streetscape,
center streetscape,
Center Streetscapes
cross walks
Demo delay extension,
Demolition
Demolition ,
Demolition article
demolition delay
Demolition Delay
demolition delay
demolition delay
demolition delay by law
Demolition Delay extension
demolition delay for homes on Cultural Resources Survey
demolition delay,
demolition delay,
Demolition delay,
Demolition delay,
demolition delay, etc.
Demolition Tear down delay

Demolition,
divestiture,
Divestment
divestment
divestment
divestment
divestment
divestment (fossil fuel)
divestment,
divestment,
divestment,
Don't remember.
energy aggregation,
first parish church
first parish,
grain mill alley funds,
Hartwell Ave capital expenses
Hastings Park,
Lots from a few
marihuana ,
Mass. Ave. traffic lights
medical marijuana,
Money for School design, etc.
Moratorium No more Banks;
Moritorium,
parking meters
Planning Board matters
police pensions
Property Tax Relief for the Elderly
Proposed traffic signals - they were not in favor of them!
Prospect Hill sidewalk
public safety
safety
safety,
SC budget,
schools
school articles
school capital
School funding, Hastings park, etc
school projects
school related,

School spending
Schools
schools,
sidewalk
sidewalk issues
Sidewalk on Prospect Hill Road, Traffic Light at woburn Street
sidewalk Prospect Hill
Sidewalks
sidewalks
sidewalks
sidewalks,
sidewalks,
street plans,
streets
Streetscape,
tcenter streetscape
tear-down extension
traffic
traffic
Traffic light at Woburn and Mass Ave
Traffic Light woburn st.
Traffic lights
traffic lights
Traffic lights Woburn St./Mass. Ave. intersection
traffic lights Woburn/Mass Ave
traffic lights,
Traffic lights/ Mass Ave
traffic related
traffic signal at Mass Ave and Winthrop St
Traffic Signals at Winthrop and mass ave
Traffic stoplight
Traffic Street light at Mass & Woburn
Woburn Intersection
Zebra crossings
11, 43, 44, 47
11a;
36,43,44,
8c, 9, 11a, 43, 44
Art 2
Article 43

## Question 25 Reason(s) for Serving

Individual responses
Although it drives me crazy a lot, it's a responsibility to participate and present one's views. It's a terrible system but the very best.
Civic service is in the bones.
Enjoy the political process and being part of it.
I care
I care about the quality of town govt. and think I have something to offer.
I enjoy learning about what is going on in the town.
I enjoy having a small say in how the Town is run and what it is like
I enjoy knowing what our Town is doing.
I enjoy participating in town government and it is always a great way to learn about what is going on in the town.
I have lived in Lexington for 18 years. Participating in Town Meeting enables me to know what is happening in town and to meet other people who are committed to the town.
I hope to maintain good governance.
I like being informed and participating in Town Government,
I like it
I like learning and knowing what is happening in the town. ...and I like to contribute to the process.
I like to know what is going on in the Town, and I like to advocate for green space, trees, and the physical and aesthetic condition of the town.
I like to see government in action and be part of it. Participation trumps complaining.
I love the idea of participating in a democratic process that few in the world enjoy. And of course, it's a way to make a contribution and "repay" the Town for all it does for residents.
I think my participation can make a difference sometimes.
I want to be useful and contribute to the town.
I want to contribute to Lexington
I want to know what is happening and how the Town spends our money
It is a civic duty
It is a civic duty which should be shared by all citizens.
It is an important role in the town.
It is important to have a say in what happens locally.
It's both a duty and a privilege to serve Lexington and repay it for all the wonderful services and benefits provided to residents.
Local government has a huge impact on everything in Lexington.
Member at Large
My quality of life in this town requires participation.



Service to town
The demographic of the members needs to change
The town spends way too much money.
To improve the quality of life in Lexington
contribute to society and make some change of our town.
enjoy being part of the political process.
i am able to contribute to the management of Lexington
if you want things to change, you need to participate in the process
it allows me to stay abreast of what's happening in Town and I care
it is important for democratic processes
it is my duty as a citizen to participate in town government.
public service is both a way of participating and giving back
I believe citizens should partake in public service and I love our town.
I believe in Town Government and want to contribute to the citizen governance of the Town of Lexington
I believe in participating in local government.
I believe in the process and want to contribute to the town that has meant so much to our family
I believe it is important for citizens to be engaged and informed about the way their town works.
As a community organizer, I can be more effective. I also enjoy participating in town government, and see how it works.
I am involved in the community
I enjoy participating in the governance of my community.
I think it's important to take some responsibility for what happens to and in one's environment, and I value the connection and sense of community that comes with participation in TM.
I want to give back to my community
I'd like to give back to the community.
It's important to participate in the functioning of your community
To give back to the community and to have input into what Lexington should be
I want to be part of the decision-making process for the Town in which I live and I believe I have something to add to the basis for those decisions
I believe in the process of inclusive government and want to be a decision maker on all important issues that come before TM that affect my constituents and the whole town.
I want to be involved in decisions that impact the direction of the town's future
I enjoy being part of the decision making, and feel I can well represent my precinct and the town.
Civic engagement is critical to a functioning democracy
In a near-direct democracy like ours, citizen participation is necessary for the town government to work.
It allows me to participate directly in democracy and to gain a window on the operations of my town.

democracy is a gift to be cherished and revered, especially for women.
I believe in local government and that we have a responsibility to participate if democracy is going to work.
I love participating in direct democracy and feel lucky to live in a place where I have the privilege to do so
Participatory democracy can work for the benefit of the citizens of Lexington and if asked by wonderful volunteer leadership be helpful in specific areas of additional professional knoweldge and may be interest? Serve the community who serves us
I care about open, transparent government and feel a civic duty to do my part to maintain this special institution.
I enjoy the discussion and debate and feel privileged to have an elected role for participation
I like participating in town politics and feeling an influence on the town's growth.
I find it tremendously rewarding. I feel connected to my community and feel that my efforts make a difference.
I enjoy learning about the details of Town government and I feel a responsibility to help improve the quality of life in Lexington.
My constituents feel that I do my homework and serve their interests well.
I am interested about specific issues, and feel as if I can contribute.
I feel I can provide logical clear thinking to issues.
I want input into the town's future.
My belief is that Lexington is a very special community, from a number of perspectives: diversity, natural resources, cultural institutions and most importantly, the schools. I serve because I want to do my part to contribute to ensuring our community's vitality and future.
I would like to participate in helping control the present and helping set the future course of the Town
I am interested in civic life and want to help maintain and improve our town for future generations.
I am interested in local politics and care about the direction the town I live in proceeds into the future
I want to participate in the direction and management of the Town and help to ensure continuation of high standards of financial prudence and management, as well as sound land use planning that will help to preserve the Town character and quality of life.
Like to help
To help insure responsible town management.
To help my Town
citizens' participation is important for the Town and helps make it run well.
I enjoy participating in Town matters and believe I can be of some help.
I love Lexington and am interested in helping to improve my tiny part of the globe.
I am a relatively new TMM.I ran seeking a new challenge with interest in knowing what it is all about. Have found it fascinating.
I am interested in town affairs at a detailed level
Interest in contributing as a volunteer. My way of giving back to the town.
Affiliations, interest, concern about certain issues.

I find the issues interesting and I like being of service to my community
I have been involved ever since my neighborhood was being treated unfairly.
To be involved in the town
being involved in town is important.
I believe it is important to be involved in, and give back to, the town.
I believe it is important to be involved. It sets a good example for the younger members of the community.
I like to be involved and feel it is my duty as a citizen of this town.
I am very interested and committed to what is going on in Lexington. I want to be involved.
I am happy to donate my time to consider, discuss and vote on issues of importance to our town.
I care about town issues . I want a say.
I value being able to contribute to "life" in Lexington. I also like "being in the know" about how the town operates and the issues it faces to make life better for my fellow citizens.
I was drafted to run but have found being a town meeting member a very rewarding experience. I especially enjoy the give and take on controversial issues and often find new perspectives on many of the issues.
I think I am well prepared in terms of the issues brought before us (I am on the AC)and because I care deeply about our community
it is my link to the community, and I accept responsibility for how I vote on Town issues (balancing my constituent's views and my own) to benefit the Town as a whole.
[Represent]
To assure constituents the town is well managed, processes are followed and because Representative Town Meeting is the purest form of self governance.
it's important to participate in representative government.
its important to represent my neighborhood.
I believe it is my responsibility to represent the community
It is important for citizens to participate in their own town government. Also, it is important for the composition of Town Meeting to reflect the diversity of our town, so I wanted to serve on TM to help represent the diversity.
I like the process of Town Meeting. I learn a lot about the Town by participating in Town Meeting. I enjoy serving the Town in this manner.
Serve the Town; make new friends; get out at night
it is my civic duty to serve my town.
our town government only works when people step up and take the time to serve.
1) Desire to serve the Town 2) believe I have something to contribute
Iam part of the community . To serve the town is important.
I am interested in town government and I now have the time to serve.
I find it interesting and it gives me an opportunity to serve the town.

Better understand the big picture of Town needs.
I like understanding what actions / activites are by undertaken by our Town government and why, and how the taxpayers' money is being spent on those items.
I wish to support the well-being and progress of Lexington at a time of change, and to understand the difficult issues that face the Town in order to help develop solutions.
I find issues of public policy fascinating and I like to understand the reasons behind government actions.
I have a passion for the town and also am a business owner. The more I learn and understand about the issues effecting the financial economics,demographic changes, and school challenges, the greater I respect the process. Being well informed has made me a more tolerant citizen.
I feel I should volunteer and give back and serve my community. I have a very good understanding of Town issues and feel I have a measured and positive approach to the governing of the Town.
I truly believe I have a voice in my town regarding how money is allocated and what policies are decided to be followed.
I want to contribute to town affairs. I want my voice and opinions to have an affect on town policy and decisions.
I want to make sure my precinct and neighborhood have a voice in each decision.
I want to have a voice in the future of my community.
I believe in the process. I want to serve my precinct and town. I want to be the probably less then average income voice in the town.

### Question 29 Additional General Feedback

Individual responses
The Moderator and Deputy Moderator both did an excellent job. Town Meeting progressed faster than I expected, given the number of articles and the nature of the articles. Will be glad to get back to the Cary Memorial Bldg, although acoustics at LHS are excellent.
Deb Brown could not be replaced!! All that ability matched with a quick wit. How can anyone match that? I have served with three Moderators and I have to say that Deb takes first place.
Well done, keep it up
I think the meetings are constantly improving - keep up the good work!
This survey does not delve into the quality of debate during TM, or how we might improve it through education and peer review. Too bad.
Thanks to all in town government. Lexington is well-served.
I think the venue this year was not as good as the Cary Hall location. Despite the less than perfect venue, the Town did everything possible to ensure that everything about town meeting worked smoothly. It was a very well run and organized town meeting.
I continue to be surprised at the lack of knowledge displayed by other town meeting members who have not attended, watched,or read about the articles. Board members are frequently challenged about issues that should have been discussed at information sessions. Their time spent at the microphone is the only time I feel is frequently wasted. Town meeting night sessions should not be the first time controversial questions or opinions are raised. Not sure how to correct this, but it is one of the reasons I've been given from some younger citizens who got frustrated and did not want to stay involved.

Thanks for your service.
Thank you for your service to the town. You do a great job.
For next year, I would love to help out with the New Member workshop--Scott Bokun, new TM member from precinct 9
I still think this survey was longer than should be. If there was a low number of responses, consider reducing its size next time.
<p>Thank you for serving the town and help us</p> <p>Vision report and their follow up</p> <p>Efforts and actual action plans for follow up</p> <p>Specifically outreaching and inclusion of folks from diverse interest - diversity in profession and else in boards and commissions</p> <p>Any new blood to train new energetic volunteers</p> <p>Would be interesting to know how many members on the boards and commissions for longer than 9 years</p> <p>There has been national debate on term limitations</p> <p>Any thoughts</p> <p>Why some precincts there are not too many candidates - apathy for what and how can the citizens from diversity be stimulated to give back to this great town</p> <p>Do appreciate all of you for your dedication and evaluation and thoughts like this right or wrong creates good thoughts so thank you</p> <p>Dinesh</p>
<p>I was pleased that, aside from controversial articles, debate was shorter than usual.</p> <p>Adding the consent list was beneficial.</p>
A few members jump to the front of the line on almost every issue. There should be a way of asking them to let others speak, even if they have not spoken on this particular article. Also, some way of cutting short discussion on a small article which is taking an excessive amount of time (e.g. the Church steeple.) This resulted in us giving little time to the final articles.
Based on the data collected and review session comments, it will begin the discussion re: how the TMMMA TM preparations can be improved.
It was shocking to hear that the BOS might go ahead with the street lights when clearly there is NOT a majority of support for it from TM. This is terrible.
<p>WiFi access should be available during TM. All materials including articles and anticipated motions, should be posted online as soon as they are available. All these paper copies shouldn't be needed for everyone.</p> <p>Deb wrote me:</p> <p>&gt; MGL Chapter 40, section 14 specifies a 2/3 vote is required for any land purchases, period.</p> <p>I replied:</p> <p>&gt; It looks like this reason for requiring 2/3 needs to be added to the "Town Meeting in Lexington" handbook, which says only: "However, a two-thirds vote is required to authorize the Town to take land by eminent domain, to change the zoning by-law, and to authorize borrowing."</p>
Managing to get done by vacation week was very much appreciated. Keep up that effort. I believe it's an incentive for people to stay involved.

Sound system much better at LHS than in Cary Hall, but the seating patterns were detrimental to moving around and/or speaking at microphones.

Since most items pass overwhelmingly, less time should be spent on discussion. Perhaps take assessment vote first. If that vote is lopsided, people might discuss less.

I realize that the temporary venue was new and a challenge for TM, but one thing which was incredibly frustrating was the number of times TM members decided to hold a distracting and extensive conversation so close to me that I could not follow the proceedings. A number of times I had to stand up and move my seat so I could hear the discussion and debate. Conversations really need to be taken outside the hall.

I am constantly impressed by the technical knowledge of the moderator and also by how she maintains a firm hand on the meeting, but in a gracious manner. I am reminded of our Town Manager who has a vast storehouse of information and knowledge who never loses his "cool" or poise when speaking before TM. Both the moderator and town manager are models for how to conduct oneself at Town Meeting.

I would like to answer Q. 26 [good use of time] yes and no. It really depends on the issue being discussed and the quality of the remarks and questions raised by members (and citizens, when appropriate).

The role of resolutions as providing ethical guidance needs to be made clear and emphasized.

This survey might be more informative if we were to do it right away after town meeting ended.

Deb B and the Dep Moderator are the BEST!

I especially appreciate how well-run the town meeting is. I particularly admire the Moderator and her ability to not lose her cool and efforts to keep the meeting moving along.

As a new TMM, I found it to be a rewarding experience. I didn't know what to expect. Some things went through surprisingly quickly, while others were very long and drawn out.

There are so many long-time members and often the same people were making most of the comments. It's becomes rather intimidating for newer members to speak.

I am concerned about the number of town meeting members leave 'early' on any given evening. So I looked at the electronic voting records and discovered the following: on March 25, March 30, April 8 and April 13 nine percent of the voters had left before the last vote of the evening.

Notably, on April 6 thirteen (13) percent of the members left before the final vote of the evening. Only 121 of the original 158 voted on the last article!

This is particularly worrisome, especially if an article requires a two-thirds vote to pass. I think some conversation about when town meeting should be adjourned is overdue.

Thank you!!!

In the past the chair of the AC or CEC would present the committee's view and then let Town Meeting members debate. Now these individuals are in the debate - sometimes even trying to speak more than once. It is more activist than in the past and should be more clear to the rest of Town Meeting what is going on. Especially because the Moderator appoints these people - and they are not elected. Especially when they appear to be opposed to something from the Selectmen, it looked very adversarial at times. What if individual Selectmen brought their personal arguments to the Yes and No microphones. Somewhere, these finance committee recommendations took on a different life this year and around parking meters it was especially frustrating to watch. Then again, maybe they were just individual members who were very set in their own thinking. It would help to have the Moderator talk to Town Meeting about why this new practice doesn't just give some individual an extra bite of the apple - while individual members only get to speak once. Or, maybe it should be more clear that each Selectmen should be welcomed and encouraged to come on down and delve into his or her individual view. It also ate up quite a bit of time, multiple times. On some more than one member of CEC was at the No microphone to elaborate on what was already said from the stage. Why was this permitted? We get the report, we hear the arguments - so these members already get a larger fraction of our attention. The other

upsetting thing was the overall stoplight and parking meter debate. It really went too far and almost appeared to be attacking staff. Whether you agree or not with the idea, our staff do work hard and they have some expertise. At times I think some Town Meeting members verged on disrespectful and rude. Suddenly several members sounded like they knew better, and not just like they respectfully disagreed. After Town Meeting, that tone has continued. I hope the Moderator might set a better tone for the way we treat each other and staff members (including department heads). Then it might last after Town Meeting adjourns. What happened to courteous debate, and then a vote?

For some of us who have to get up very early, the starting time of 7 PM will be helpful, and ending time of 9:30 pm. This changes may require additional meetings, town meeting members might be okay with that.

For those who use the listening systems off-microphone statements should not be allowed.

I must add, our listening system is excellent.

Seemed to be an excess of efforts at micromanagement by TM this year. Not sure there's anything to be done about it.

Thank you for your service and the time you devote to this important function

Keep up the good work.

You all are doing a great job and thanks for making the new TM members feel invited and for the educational training.

Overall, I felt this TM was very well run. I am a big proponent of the Information Sessions and hope these continue in the future, more or less as they have been run in the past. The positioning of the microphones in the LHS Auditorium could have been better - the Question microphone was too far back in my opinion. However, this should change when we move back to Cary Hall, which I am looking forward to!

1) TMMA is not an official Town entity. If official TM communications are to be sent via email, then Town Clerk should send such communications to email addresses that Clerk maintains. 2) Add more items to consent agenda 3) Reduce length of town meeting 4) Consider all day Saturday session in lieu of evening meetings

While the setting for the meeting this year was not ideal, we accomplished what needed to be done. When we are back in Battin Hall next year I believe that things will run more smoothly. The Moderator did a fine job this year.

I'm never sure whether participating in TM is "time well spent". It's more like paying your taxes... not much fun, but something someone's got to do. So it might as well be me.... for a while

I look forward to returning to the Cary Hall building where the logistics and sight lines are better.

Thanks to all for the hard work that made the logistics work at LHS - but it wasn't nearly as good as Cary.