

Annual Town Meeting



July 11, 2020
Center School

Introduction

- **Beverages and food permitted in auditorium**
- **No smoking is allowed on school grounds**
- **Cell phones are muted or turned off**
- **No applause or other verbal outbursts**
- **Remain seated during a vote and use Voter Identification Card when voting**

Cast of Characters

- David Walrath Town Moderator
- Laura Spear Deputy Moderator
- Linda Hathaway Town Clerk
- Deb Seith Assistant Town Clerk

- Tom Ryan Chair, Board of Selectmen
- Erica Benedick Chair, Finance Committee
- Steve Jelineck Chair, Capital Planning

- Bill Wrigley Town Administrator

Special Rules for Annual Town Meeting 2020

The following are special rules due to the current COVID19 pandemic.

- No one who is currently sick, has been sick, or has been exposed to active Covid-19 in the last 14 days shall be allowed in the meeting.
- Social distancing must be maintained while in line to check in - at least 6 feet between people.
- Everyone must wear a face covering over the mouth and nose, both inside the school and in the shared tent outdoors (except for children 2 and under).
- Socially distant seating: if chairs are set up in advance, they can only be moved with permission of a Moderator or Town Clerk.
- Only people who live together can sit together.
- Both indoor and outdoor locations will have mics, speakers, and a Moderator. The outside venue will have chairs, although voters may bring more comfortable portable chairs from home.
- If you set up outdoor chairs, you shall keep them at appropriate distances from others (at least 6 feet).
- All marked walking lanes inside and outside shall be kept free of chairs or other obstructions.
- Presentations are limited to a maximum of 10 minutes and must be approved in advance by the Moderator.
- The Moderator will limit speakers to two minutes, and voters may address the meeting once per motion.
- Speakers will stand in lines for microphones as in prior town meetings. Voters waiting to speak will keep appropriate social distancing and will not touch the microphones.
- If special accommodations are needed because of these rules or other reasons, you must contact the Town Clerk by 4:30PM July 2.

Town Meeting is being recorded by StowTV
It will replay several times this week on
Comcast 9 / Verizon 33
Check stowtv.org for schedule

Thanks to:
StowTV for sound and recording
The checkers and tellers
Special thanks to the First Parish Church for
the outdoor sound system

We had a lot of extra help this meeting from
Building Department
Fire - Rescue Department
Police Department
Highway Department

as well as the usual big help from the
Town Clerk's and Selectmen's offices

Debate

- Respectful debate is expected.
- Identify yourself when you speak at a microphone – “Jane Doe from 123 Apple Town Way”
- Comments must be related to the motion being discussed.
- All questions are directed to the moderator, who will redirect them to the appropriate person
- Avoid being repetitive.
- There is a 2 minute time limit per speaker at a microphone
- If you feel everything useful has been said, you can make a motion to end debate.
- Most basic questions about procedure can be answered in Stow’s “Town Meeting Handbook”. It is available on the town web site, with some paper copies at the meeting.
- If you have questions about policy or procedures, you can ask a moderator.