

WATERBURY TOWN MEETING STUDY COMMITTEE SUMMARY OF MEETING AGENDAS

January 21, 2026

- Susan Clark Presentation #1 - Quantity v. Quality of Participation

March 25, 2026

- Susan Clark Presentation #2 - Summary of Other Towns

April 22, 2026

- Duxbury – informational meeting followed by drive-thru Australian ballot. Special Guest: Maureen Harvey, Duxbury Town Clerk (Anne Imhoff)
- Cambridge – town meeting study committee Special Guest: Adam Howard of Cambridge, Justice of the Peace in Cambridge and former state legislator, worked on a committee for Town Meeting improvements May-October 2024 - [see presentation here](#). (Amy Marshall-Carney)

May 27, 2026

- Brattleboro – representative town meeting for 65 years, until last year. Special Guests: Peter Elwell (former town manager) and Kate O'Connor (former select board member), both are members of the Town Charter Committee. (Liz Schlegel)
- VT Secretary of State - Civic Society Index. Special Guest: Michael Moser, Research Operations Director, The Center for Rural Studies at UVM; and Coordinator, Vermont's Census State Data Center. (Evan Hoffman)

June 24, 2026

- Special Articles [See presentation here](#). (Kathi Grace)
- Morristown – Civic Engagement Committee. Special Guest: Maggie Cleary, Morristown Civic Project. (Susan Titterton)

July 22, 2026

- Improving Town Report – presentation of budget, reports from groups (Valerie Rogers)
- Ideas for Improving the Town Meeting Experience – (Liz Schlegel)

August 26, 2026

- Moving Date or Time of Town Meeting (Michelle Downing)
- ADA Accessibility – parking, shuttle bus, closed captioning (Amy Marshall-Carney)

September 23, 2026 – Draft Report

October 28, 2026 – Survey Update

November 18, 2026 – Committee Discussion & Survey Results

December 16, 2026 – Final Report

8/4/2026

SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

Structural Options

	Recommend Against	Neutral	Recommend In Favor
Australian Ballot for Town Budget			
Representative Town Meeting			
Two-Part Meeting - Jericho (Binding Floor Meeting followed by Australian Ballot)			
Two-Part Meeting - Duxbury (Informational Meeting followed by Australian Ballot)			
Two-Part Meeting - Waterbury (Informational Meeting followed by Floor Meeting)			
Time/Day of Town Meeting			

Non-Structural Options

	Recommend Against	Neutral	Recommend In Favor
Improve Town Report			
Technology & Audio			
Special Articles a. Standard Application b. Written Policy c. 501c3 proof d. Consolidate articles e. Permanent Review C'ee			
Town Meeting Guide			
Town Meeting Facilitators			
Standing Civic Committee			

TEMPLATE FOR EVALUATING OPTIONS

Australian Ballot for Annual Town Budget

Proposal	Australian Ballot for Annual Town Budget
Decision Maker(s)	Town Voters need to approve the proposal
Champion	???
Cost	\$5,000 annually to administer ballot vote (print ballots, etc.)
Quantity of Participation	• Likely to increase # of voters from XXX to XXX • Increased accessibility
Quality of Participation	• Less public understanding of issues • Less flexibility; cannot amend budget on the floor • Does not build community engagement
Working Group Recommendation (August 2026)	Recommend in Favor (XX) Neutral (XX) Recommend Against (XX)

Optional - a few paragraphs of prose to describe each option