

Waterbury Town Meeting Study Committee  
Meeting #1, 1-21-26, 7:30 pm

Present:

Committee members: Michelle Downing, Rebecca Ellis, Kathy Grace, Evan Hoffman, Amy Marshall Carney, Valerie Rogers, Liz Schlegel, Susan Titterton

Public: Susan Clark, Roger Clapp, Karen Petrovic, Lisa Scagliotti

- Rebecca Ellis, Town Moderator, welcomed everyone and volunteered to chair the meeting and presented the agenda.
- Evan Hoffman suggested amending the agenda to add a discussion of a possible survey at this year's Town Meeting Day (March 3).
- Members of the committee and the public introduced themselves and shared their backgrounds and interest in the committee.
- Roger Clapp presented the committee mandate from the Select Board.
- <https://www.waterburyvt.com/boards/waterbury-town-meeting-study-committee>  
Goal is to come up with recommendations that can be brought to the community on Town Meeting Day 2027. There will be 8 committee meetings, starting with today.
- Liz Schlegel nominated Rebecca Ellis to be the committee chair, seconded by Anne Imhoff and passed unanimously.
- Susan Titterton nominated Liz Schlegel to be committee secretary, seconded by Anne Imhoff and passed unanimously.
- Susan Clark of Middlesex, moderator in Middlesex, professional facilitator on community engagement, author of several books on Town Meeting and local democracy, shared a presentation: *Approaches to Improving the Quantity and Quality of Participation at Town Meeting*. There will be a second presentation from Ms. Clark at the next committee meeting in March.
- The committee then responded to the prompts in the presentation and considered additional benefits and impacts of overuse for both quality (in-person) and quantity (ballot-based) voting. Notes from this brainstorming session can be found in a separate document.
- Evan referred to the participation research he presented to the Select Board in July 2025 (LINK) and suggested the Committee prepare a survey for this year's Town Meeting participants. It was determined that there was not enough time to prepare a survey before Town Meeting, but we could work to administer a survey after Town Meeting to those who did and did not participate. This will be on the March meeting agenda.

- Michelle Downing volunteered to briefly present information about the Town Meeting Study Committee and invite additional potential committee members to apply at this year's Town Meeting (March 3, 2026).
- Next meeting is Wednesday, March 25 from 7-9pm.
- The committee adjourned at 9:10pm.