

Waterbury Town Meeting Study Committee

Meeting #4, 5-27-26, 7:00 pm

Present:

Committee members: Rebecca Ellis, Evan Hoffman, Anne Imhoff, Valerie Stella Rogers, Amy Marshall Carney, Michelle Downing, Susan Titterton, Liz Schlegel, Kathi Grace, Roger Clapp

Public: (via Zoom) Kate O'Connor & Peter Elwell of Brattleboro

- Rebecca Ellis, Chair, welcomed everyone and presented the agenda, and meeting minutes
 - Anne Imhoff began passing thank-you notes around the room
- Review of agenda: Susan Titterton noted Carol Lauber of MACC cannot be present in June. Moved by Susan Titterton, seconded by Liz Schlegel, approved unanimously.
- Approve minutes from April 22 - moved by Anne Imhoff, seconded by Susan Titterton, approved unanimously.

- Introduction of Michael Moser, Research Operations Director, Center for Rural Studies at UVM and Coordinator, Vermont's Census Data Center. Lives in Cambridge.
 - Review of Vermont's Civic Health Index:
 - <https://outside.vermont.gov/dept/sos/Civics/Vermont-CHI-FINAL-1.17.25.pdf>
 - Q&A on Civic Health Index
 - Description of survey development process

- Discussion of committee collaborative process to develop survey questions
 - ID survey goals and brainstorm questions

- Introduction of the concept of Representative Town Meeting by Liz Schlegel (see notes memo)
- Introduction of Peter Elwell and Kate O'Connor from Brattleboro
 - Both have served as representative town meeting members
 - Peter was a town manager, Kate was a SB member
 - Currently serving (past 3.5 years) on Charter Review Commission, tasked with finding a new way forward for Brattleboro
- Kate and Peter reviewed their experiences with Brattleboro's recent (March 2026) changes to its Town Meeting process – eliminating RTM and then voting for both Australian ballot and Open Town Meeting. As members of the Charter Review Commission, they are working to find options that serve the voters' wishes.
- Discussion and Q&A on Brattleboro's experience of RTM.

- Other topics upcoming: Kathi talking about special articles (August - could move this session), Valerie looking at Town Reports (July). Also need to schedule time to debrief tonight's discussion.

- Next meeting is Wednesday, June 24 from 7-9 pm. Morristown will be joining us.
- Susan moved to adjourn, seconded by Evan, approved unanimously. The committee adjourned at 9:13 pm.

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