

Waterbury Town Meeting Study Committee

Meeting #5, 6-24-26, 7:00 pm

Present:

Committee members: Rebecca Ellis, Anne Imhoff, Valerie Stella Rogers, Amy Marshall Carney, Michelle Downing (zoom), Susan Titterton, Liz Schlegel, Kathi Grace

Public: Silje Larsen (member of Conservation Committee), Maggie Cleary from MACC

- Rebecca Ellis, Chair, welcomed everyone and presented the agenda
- Anne moved, Amy seconded - all in favor

- Meeting minutes: Kathi questioned about when there will be discussion - per Rebecca, we will review as a group in a future meeting - she has a process plan for tackling some of the key subjects and also our approach to feedback/ pros & cons. July would be ideas, August would be when we discuss approaches/ feedback
- Michelle moved to approve minutes, second- Anne - approved (all in favor)

- Kathi and Amy presenting on Special Articles
 - Kathi notes that special services articles & requests have increased
 - They take a lot of time to discuss
 - Does not seem that the town has a policy, feels concerned about this
 - Amy making presentation of data (see slides) around special articles
 - Noting that other towns require an application while Waterbury does not
 - Stowe & Montpelier fund a combined Community Fund that people apply to get funds from
 - Waterbury has no policy beyond statute, no standardized info for voters (most towns surveyed do)
 - Concern that people do not have enough information to vote effectively
 - Goal = reduce Town Meeting length, increase voter information
 - Amy & Kathi will gather other town's forms and add to Resources

- Maggie Cleary, Outreach Librarian from the Morristown Centennial Library representing the Morristown Civic Project - presented their information and answered questions
 - Discussing the changes in Morristown in the past few years
 - Morristown Civic Project
 - Community information & connection such as Town Meeting Election Guide, Town Operator's Manual, Volunteering Guide and Community Conversations

- Rebecca timeline: We will generate ideas, then survey Sept/Oct - please comment on survey and we will create a subcommittee
- Next month: Valerie 30-30 minutes on improving Town Report, Michelle to research format changes to town meeting - talk to communities who have made these changes and present in August.

