



Warrant Review Evaluation 4/7/15 – 17 Responses 42⁺ Attendees

Hosts: Cynthia Brubaker, Peggy Roberts ^{sp}= Speaker

Michael Alpert ^{sp} Michael Birtwistle TracyLee Boutillier Claudia Brown Cynthia Brubaker ^{sp} Nonny Burack Kevin Collins Rob Crouner ^{sp} Vira Douangmany Ray Elliott ^{sp} Richard Fein ^{sp}	Barbara Ford Carol Gray Martha Hanner Phoebe Hazzard Patricia Holland Larry Kelly Jeff Lee Eleanor Manire-Gatti David Markland Sarah McKee Kay Moran ^{sp}	John Musante ^{sp} Sigurd Nilsen Vince O'Connor ^{sp} Melissa Perot Alan Powell Chris Riddle Peggy Roberts ^{sp} Lisa Selkirk ^{sp} Doug Slaughter ^{sp} Ruth Smith Martha Spiegelman ^{sp}	Mary Streeter ^{sp} Adrienne Terrizzi MaryLou Theilman ^{sp} Jonathan Tucker Joanna Wan Mary Wentworth ^{sp} Joe Wronka ^{sp} Dave Ziomek Others
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1. How many years have you been a representative to the Amherst Town Meeting?

Not in TM – **3 (CHP)** New member – **1 (I)** 1-3 years – **5 (AGMNO)**
 3-5 years – **0** 5-10 years – **2 (EJ)** 10+ years – **6 (BDFKLQ)**

2. Did you find this event helpful? Yes – 14 (ABCDEFGHIJKLMNO) No – 0 Somewhat – 2 (GI) No Response 1 (H)

3. What did you like best about this event?

- A:** Good explanations. Inclusionary zoning – very complicated
- B:** Cut off people at the bell
- C:** Orderly, time-limited clear presentations. For Amherst, questions were respectful w/ only some polemic.
- D:** Clear presentations; enforcement of time limits, verbal listing of Precinct Meetings
- E:** Peggy kept us on task. Finished on time.
- F:** Learning details of articles. It looked like a good turnout. Questions that were asked were excellent.
- H:** It is very organized and there is a chance for your voice to be heard.
- I:** Getting to know some of the players and issues
- J:** Covered articles I do not know about
- K:** good p
- L:** The pace kept things moving.
- M:** Good sound until manual mic failed. Quick fix! Good attendance
- N:** Kept moving
- O:** Clear time limits work. Very helpful. Thanks.
- P:** Kept to schedule
- Q:** Informal & informative

4. What did you like least about this event?

- A:** Time crunch – always a factor
- E:** To be candid _____ is very knowledgeable but not a great presenter.
- F:** Not enough time for questions. I wish more presenters had clear visuals.
- G:** No opportunity (limited opportunity) to ask questions
- H:** Some of the points aren't clear, because the process is so fast.
- I:** Not enough in-depth background
- J:** Words used that are not understandable
- K:** More lies from Town officials and obfuscation
- L:** No quibbles.

5. Do you have any suggestions for how we could improve this event?

- B:** Refreshments
- C:** Would prefer a start @ 5:30 or 6:00 pm
- E:** Not really.
- F:** Put a 2-minute questions period for each speaker.

G: The basic problem of town meeting is that there is no reasonable expectation that questions asked on the floor of Town Meeting will be answered. In articles as complex as 21-25, the lack of serious Q & A is discouraging. Some way to facilitate meaningful discussion between proponents and opponents needs to be found.

H: Possibly speak slower – I know that sounds silly, but it was hard to understand some points & elaborate on the articles more, so more time?

I: Give more info re: concerns on each “controversial” issue (esp. for new members)

L: Not at the moment.

M: Provide pencils to fill out this form

6. Are there other types of educational forums that you would like to see the Town Meeting Coordinating Committee host regarding Town Meeting?

D: Not really.

TMCC Bus Tour Evaluation 4/12/15 – 17 Responses 30 Attendees

Hosts: Patricia Holland, Nonny Burack, Alan Powell^{sp}= Speaker

Dick Bentley	Debbi Friedlander	Linda Nolan-Labbe	Mary Streeter
Nonny Burack	Frank Gatti	James Perot	Adrienne Terrizzi
Claudia Brown	Patricia Holland	Melissa Perot	Molly Turner
Joan Burgess	Amber KaCey	Alan Powell	Jim Wald
Felicity Callahan	Barbara Levine	Peggy Roberts	Joanna Wan
Matthew Charity	Eleanor Manire-Gatti	Jim Scott	Mary Wentworth
Rob Crowner	Lewis Mainzer	Doug Slaughter	
Barbara Ford	Emmanuel Morales	Ruth Smith	

1. How many years have you been a representative to the Amherst Town Meeting?

Not in TM – **1 (P)** New member – **5 (ADLMQ)** 1-3 years – **2 (FK)**
3-5 years – **1 (C)** 5-10 years – **1 (G)** 10+ years – **7 (BEHIJNO)**

2. Did you find this event helpful? Yes – 18 (ABCDEFGHIJKLMNO) No – 0 Somewhat – 1 (L)

3. What did you like best about this event?

A: Discussing while seeing the property

B: Good company

C: Seeing actual properties

D: Sense of community – getting sense of our town’s investing in its history and future, and seeing so many components of town life. Also hearing concerns of other town meeting members.

E: seeing the sites affected by the articles

F: Viewing the warrant articles is a good idea.

G: We hit everything we have to know about!

H: Well Done! A good/informative tour. Thanks.

I: Clear explanations, questions, & seeing the places; the beautiful weather; learning about Goodwin Church; nice variety of stops; well-paced & we ended on time. This was the best Bus Tour I have been on.

J: All of it – Even the bus driver was terrific, knew what/where; Sound planning, organization of stops. Informal presentations, no advocating; excellent timing even considering no shows or late showing people at stops

K: Information received and explained

L: Seeing the sites, meeting the people

M: Got to ID articles & physical

N: I appreciate both seeing the physical aspects and locations of items to be considered on the warrant AND hearing the details from the presentations and the answers to the questions. The map handout was so useful.

- O:** Well designed tour – of course it depends on the articles at any meeting that lend themselves to visual appropriateness.
- P:** Very well organized, efficient route; Jim Wald’s presentation; AME Church; Doug Slaughter’s reporting
- Q:** The info on the sights

4. What did you like least about this event?

- A:** nice & basic
- B:** N/A
- C:** acoustics
- E:** what I expected
- F:** Microphones Do Not Work
- I:** People who talk when other people are trying to hear the speaker
- J:** Nothing unlikeable. Those not wishing to exit bus remained with plenty of visuals & handouts to read.
*Note stop #14 Rolling Green stop a good promo but since not on warrant & with 5 more stops to conclude by 4, probably could have been eliminated.
- L:** There was someone in a wheelchair who couldn’t come because the bus was not accessible. I think that is not fair. Also, accessibility for others who have mobility issues, i.e. walkers & canes need to be accommodated.
- M:** Bus not handicap accessible – 2 folks couldn’t come in.
- N:** No least-likes. (Even the weather was lovely!)
- O:** Thanks for improving the sound system but I think the back of the bus still had issues.
- P:** Weather was too nice – would rather have been in my yard at home or on a hike.
- Q:** Too long

5. Do you have any suggestions for how we could improve this event?

- B:** Refreshments
- C:** You do a great job. Thanks
- D:** More space for notes near description of stops/articles.
- F:** We need to hear everything and get detail answers to questions.
- J:** Great job, TMCC
- K:** Nothing. Great job!
- L:** Make the bus tour accessible.
- M:** Have a 2nd vehicle () that is wheelchair accessible.
- N:** BUS! Perhaps intended speakers could be trained and could practice using the microphone. (please help ___ master the mike... but thanks for her participation.)
- Q:** Maybe a coffee break in the middle or 1 hr tour over 2 days

6. Are there other types of educational forums that you would like to see the Town Meeting Coordinating Committee host regarding Town Meeting?

No responses

Central- East Precinct Meeting Evaluation 4/13/15

12 Responses 23 Attendees

Hosts: Barbara Ford, Peggy Roberts at the Middle School Prof. Dev. Center

Michael Alpert	Barbara Davis	David Markland	Greg Stutsman
Claudia Brown	Amber KaCey	Sarah McKee	Jonathan Tucker
Felicity Callahan	Barbara Ford	Vincent O’Connor	Mary Wentworth
Bruce Carson	Gordon Freed	Peggy Roberts	Jonathan Tucker
Kevin Collins	Nancy Higgins	Pam Rooney	Dave Ziomek
Rob Crowner	Jacqueline Maidana	Ruth Smith	

1. How many years have you been a representative to the Amherst Town Meeting?

Not in TM – 2 (FL) New member – 4 CDHK 1-3 years – 2 (AI)

3-5 years – 2 (BJ)

5-10 years – 0

10+ years – 2 (EG)

2. Did you find this event helpful? Yes – 9 (ABCFGHIJK) No – 0 Somewhat – 3 (ADE)

3. What did you like best about this event?

- B: Helpful question & answer
- C: Open ended sharing of information
- D: Reinforced understanding of warrants
- E: Brief intro to all zoning articles
- F: The ability to educate town meeting members
- G: Questions
- H: Open discussion about issues
- I: A more detail look at the articles on the warrant
- J: Good questions
- K: Good to see people in an intimate setting

4. What did you like least about this event?

- B: under moderated
- C: Shortness of time
- D: Nothing
- E: Cutting off people I wanted to hear from
- F: Some articles took too long to discuss. Better to have time limits
- G: Dominated by few individuals
- H: It takes time. Inevitable.
- I: 0
- J: opinions stated rather than intentions and details of the articles; might want to walk thru list starting w/ beginning
- K: Dominated by one person, who often spoke out of turn, interrupted other speakers, and talked among themselves while others were speaking

5. Do you have any suggestions for how we could improve this event?

- B: keeping folks on track would help in covering issues vs arguing issues.
- C: No
- D: No
- E: Glance around more to see hands raised by quieter folks who are waiting to be recognized
- F: N/A
- G: Timed discussion
- H: Have time limits on each article
- I: Have coffee ☺
- L: Have people use a mike

6. Are there other types of educational forums that you would like to see the Town Meeting Coordinating Committee host regarding Town Meeting?

No responses

South Precinct Meeting Evaluation 4/14/15

13 Responses 29⁺ Attendees

Hosts: Adrienne Terrizzi, Mary Streeter at Crocker Farm School Library

Michael Alpert
Bob Biagi
Claudia Brown
Felicity Callahan
Bruce Carson

Albert Chevan
Janet Chevan
Rob Crowner
Carol Gray
Louise Hammann

Jeff Lee & Cameron
Karen Lennon
Gabor Lukacs
David Markland
Janet McGowan

Vincent O'Connor
Sandy Pooler
Alan Powell
Janice Ratner
Elissa Rubenstein

Jim Scott
Lisa Selkirk

Martha Spiegelman
Mary Streeter

Greg Stutsman
Alice Swift

Adrienne Terrizzi
Jonathan Tucker

1. How many years have you been a representative to the Amherst Town Meeting?

Not in TM – 1 (I) New member – 0 1-3 years – 1 (B)
3-5 years – 1 (L) 5-10 years – 2 (ACF) 10+ years – 6 (DEGHJK)

2. Did you find this event helpful? Yes – 13 (ABCDEFGHIJKL) No – 0 Somewhat – 0

3. What did you like best about this event?

- A: Well organized
- B: The strict & organized facilitation
- C: Chance to hear diff. points of view in a non hostile environment!
- D: I liked that we had a lively discussion. The library is a comfortable warm place for a discussion with neighbors.
- E: Very good moderator control
- F: The presentations, questions & responses
- G: The Finance Director should be at every meeting – very helpful
- H: Providing more information in a smaller venue
- I: Candid discussion
- J: I found the evening useful. I liked that it was a chance to learn more about some articles.
- K: The availability of the Finance Director and members of the Planning Board to answer questions and provide clarity
- L: Discussion of the articles in detail; explanations of the intent of the warrant articles

4. What did you like least about this event?

- A: Need more time
- B: The back & forth arguments that sometimes happened
- D: Having the doors locked at the start threw me off as a moderator. The presence of Town staff and Planning Board members skewed to meeting to a question and answer session with “experts” rather than tis being a meeting for the Town Meeting members to share their perspectives on the articles.
- E: went over lots of material in an expeditious, logical manner
- F: Nothing
- J: Too much talking on some particular articles
- K: One woman dominated more than half the evening and she could not be heard.

5. Do you have any suggestions for how we could improve this event?

- B: It was great nevertheless.
- D: Use a speaker system. Call the school custodian a day ahead of time to make sure doors are unlocked ahead of time.
- E: make sure the building will be open when participants arrive.
- F: No
- K: Get microphones and a speaker system.
- L: Explanations of the history and experience with the current arrangements would be useful.

6. Are there other types of educational forums that you would like to see the Town Meeting Coordinating Committee host regarding Town Meeting?

No responses

North Precinct Meeting Evaluation 4/15/15

11 Responses 20⁺ Attendees at Immanuel Lutheran Church Parish House Lounge

Hosts: Nonny Burack and Patricia Holland at the Immanuel Lutheran Church

Michael Alpert
Claudia Brown
Nonny Burack

Joan Burgess
Kevin Collins
Rob Crowner

Debbi Friedlander
Patricia Holland
Christine Kline

Adam Lussier
Ellie Manire-Gatti
Shirley Markham
David Markland

Vincent O'Connor
Melissa Perot
Sandy Pooler
Alan Powell

Lawrence Quigley
Greg Stutsman
Jonathan Tucker
Molly Turner

1. How many years have you been a representative to the Amherst Town Meeting?

Not in TM – **2 (GJ)** New member – **3 (EIK)** 1-3 years – **0**
3-5 years – **2 (BF)** 5-10 years – **1 (D)** 10+ years – **3 (ACH)**

2. Did you find this event helpful? Yes – __ (ABCDEFGHIJK) No – 0 Somewhat – 1 (G) No response 1 (H)

3. What did you like best about this event?

A: Sandy Pooler

B: A forum to discuss articles prior to TM

C: People said at the beginning which articles they wanted to discuss – this shortened the meeting; about 5 thorny issues. I liked the naïve, innocent questions – answers were helpful.

D: Discuss position

E: Presence & information offered by town officials was very helpful, esp. financial person & planning board officials; smart to prioritize what people want to talk about vs. just going down the list of articles.

F: Well conducted; good time keeping; informative

G: Theoretical opportunity for citizens to learn about their government

H: Nothing, the moderator intolerable attitude and those try to answer town officials

I: Nice to meet people

J: Moderators did a good job.

K: The lively discussion!

4. What did you like least about this event?

A: _____ got angry

B: Difficult to have speakers give their opinions, even when asked not to.

C: Rancorous at times; wondered about non-TM people being present

D: I didn't like the opinions being shut off.

E: Some participants monopolizing time; strident advocacy for points of view.

F: I question the presence of a non-Amherst resident at a precinct meeting.

G: Precinct meetings have become too unwieldy and too contentious. It's not possible to cover even just the most important articles adequately in two hours.

H: Misguided / misdirected refusal to allow rebuttal of presenters

I: One person did all the talking. No one else got to talk. Nothing really got done.

J: The balance of opinion was often lopsided.

K: Not enough time to have a full discussion of certain topics. Too many topics.

5. Do you have any suggestions for how we could improve this event?

B: You are doing the best you can.

E: I did not know the purpose of this event ahead of time (did I miss something?) – otherwise I would have come prepared with questions.

G: Either: divide the entire warrant separately among the meetings so that zoning is covered at only one, budget at another, etc. Or: disinvite experts and petitioners including PB, Fin Com, etc. from attending precinct meetings so that only the members would be there to talk amongst themselves.

H: Allow for advocacy by non-presenters, since every presentation involves a form of advocacy involving which info is presented.

J: Maybe set initial rules more clearly. What can be discussed.

6. Are there other types of educational forums that you would like to see the Town Meeting Coordinating Committee host regarding Town Meeting?

E: Basic info & history of zoning & certain town funding sources such as CPA

I: Online Forum

K: Maybe allow a deeper discussion with fewer items.

Central West Precincts Meeting Evaluation 4/25/15 – 9 Responses 20 Attendees

Host: Alan Powell at Police Station Community Room

Maurianne Adams

Michael Alpert

Claudia Brown

Rob Crowner

John Fox

Bob Greeney

Hwei-Ling Greeney

Adam Lussier

Jacqueline Maidana

Hind Mari

David Markland

Sally Neely

Vince O'Connor

Sandy Pooler

Alan Powell

Mary Streeter

Greg Stutsman

Fran Van Treese

Molly Turner

Mary Wentworth

1. How many years have you been a representative to the Amherst Town Meeting?

Not in TM – 3 (DEH) New member – 1 (A) 1-3 years – 1 (I)
3-5 years – 0 5-10 years – 0 10+ years – 4 (BCFG)

2. Did you find this event helpful? Yes – 8 (ABCDEFGI) No – 0 Somewhat – 1 (H)

3. What did you like best about this event?

A: The open dialogue. Moderator is great.

B: Full discussion

C: to hear discussions in a small group setting

D: I like how the moderator ran the meeting allowing for debate. Very important

E: Alan Powell very up front about expectations of how the meeting be run. As adults.

F: good discussion

G: Hearing a variety of points of view. People listened to each other respectfully. Some excellent questions were asked.

I: Open dialogue

4. What did you like least about this event?

A: Need ½ hr more

B: one speaker given excessive time.

C: Need to budget meeting time better to get through all the articles people are interested in discussing

D: N/A

F: no problems

G: Being here on such a beautiful day! Too much “air time” given to planning board members.

5. Do you have any suggestions for how we could improve this event?

B: Suggest time limit / person _____

C: (See #4)

F: Use this format for all precinct meetings; get rid of the concept that committee and staff presentations are objective and adverse comments are advocacy.

H: Don't schedule precinct meetings on consecutive nights. Limit the advocacy element of precinct meetings. Discourage people from attending every single meeting (this year about 10-12 people came to every meeting and only 3-4 new people attended each.

I: Protect air time

6. Are there other types of educational forums that you would like to see the Town Meeting Coordinating Committee host regarding Town Meeting?

C: No

G: That the Planning Board hold its own question and answer session separate from the Precinct Meetings

I: Planning Board should have had a zoning informational meeting.