

Town of Burlington, Town Hall Annex
Rules Committee Meeting Minutes
January 10, 2022

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By Town Clerk's Office at 8:53 am, Jan 31, 2022

Call to Order: Meeting was called to order at 7:02 PM.

Rules Committee members present: Christine Concession, Jeff DiBona, Gary Kasky, Laura Nichols, Myrna Saltman, Adam Senesi, Mark Woods. Guest attendee: Betsey Hughes.

First order of business was a review of December 6, 2021 meeting minutes. Rules Committee approved 7-0-0.

Myrna Saltman opened the meeting with discussion of proposed Warrant Article regarding Town Meeting Member attendance at Town Meeting. Betsey Hughes provided the Rules Committee with the Warrant Article that was approved by the Select Board for presentation at January Town Meeting. Betsey commented that the By-Law Review Committee provided assistance in crafting the language for the warrant article. Betsey also advised the committee she now has information from seven area towns that have minimum attendance requirements for town meetings.

Betsey and Myrna emphasized the need for the Town Clerk to publish attendance information on the Town of Burlington website and to ask the Town Clerk to have these statistics published in local periodicals.

The Rules Committee was informed that the Select Board voted to conduct the January Town Meeting as a hybrid, although this request must be approved by the Commonwealth of MA. If January Town Meeting is in-person, attendance guidelines will fall under the Department of Elementary & Secondary Education as this is a school building.

The Select Board was informed that the Rules Committee voted to start town meeting at 7PM and verbally were in favor. This change will hopefully take place beginning with the May 2022 Town Meeting.

As a result of the attendance analysis Betsey had begun a draft for a Warrant Article to address chronic absenteeism at Town Meeting. The Rules Committee voted 8-0-0 in favor of supporting a Warrant Article that seeks to mitigate chronic absenteeism.

Jeff DiBona will follow up on the potential cost for using CAPTCHA for blocking Bots from obtaining TMM information and sending out SPAM.

Meeting adjourned 7:51PM. Next Rules Committee meeting TBD.

Submitted by Mark Woods, Rules Committee Secretary, TMM Precinct 7