

# Moderator's 2016 Town Meeting Survey





---

The following are the results of this year's survey of Town Meeting members. Pages 1- 10 chart the multiple choice answers; pages 11-44 contain text answers and comments.

Thanks to all who completed the survey, and special thanks to the Moderator's survey committee members (Barry Orenstein, Beth Masterman, and Deborah Strod) for their invaluable assistance.

Deborah Brown, Moderator

## 1. Overall Satisfaction: Overall, how satisfied are you with the way the 2016 Annual Town Meeting operated?

Response	Chart	Percentage	Count
Very satisfied		69.1%	96
Somewhat satisfied		23.0%	32
Neutral / no opinion		3.6%	5
Somewhat dissatisfied		4.3%	6
Very dissatisfied		0.0%	0
		<b>Total Responses</b>	<b>139</b>

## 2. Documents and Presentations: How helpful were the following presentations and/or documents made available during the 2016 Annual Town Meeting?

	Very helpful	Somewhat helpful	Not helpful	Did not read/hear	Total Responses
Town Moderator proposed schedule of articles and periodic updates	128 (92.1%)	10 (7.2%)	0 (0.0%)	1 (0.7%)	139
Board of Selectmen presentations	89 (64.0%)	47 (33.8%)	2 (1.4%)	1 (0.7%)	139
Town Budget Book ("brown book")	65 (48.1%)	53 (39.3%)	7 (5.2%)	10 (7.4%)	135
Town Manager's presentation	102 (73.4%)	34 (24.5%)	2 (1.4%)	1 (0.7%)	139
Appropriation Committee reports & remarks	94 (68.1%)	41 (29.7%)	2 (1.4%)	1 (0.7%)	138
Capital Expenditures Committee reports & remarks	92 (66.7%)	44 (31.9%)	0 (0.0%)	2 (1.4%)	138
Lexington Public Schools Budget Book	49 (36.0%)	68 (50.0%)	10 (7.4%)	9 (6.6%)	136
Lexington Public Schools Superintendent's presentation	82 (59.4%)	52 (37.7%)	2 (1.4%)	2 (1.4%)	138
Minuteman regional High School Superintendent's presentation	84 (61.3%)	49 (35.8%)	3 (2.2%)	1 (0.7%)	137
Community Preservation Committee reports & remarks	76 (55.5%)	50 (36.5%)	9 (6.6%)	2 (1.5%)	137
Planning Board reports & remarks	89 (64.0%)	45 (32.4%)	3 (2.2%)	2 (1.4%)	139
Written materials and presentations by article sponsors	65 (46.8%)	68 (48.9%)	6 (4.3%)	0 (0.0%)	139

**3. TMMA Activities and Resources: How helpful were the following *TMMA activities and resources* in preparation for and during the 2016 Annual Town Meeting?**





	Very helpful	Somewhat helpful	Not helpful	Did not read/use/attend	Total Responses
TMMA bus tour	35 (25.4%)	26 (18.8%)	4 (2.9%)	73 (52.9%)	138
TMMA information book	51 (37.2%)	60 (43.8%)	18 (13.1%)	8 (5.8%)	137
TMMA information sessions (in person)	45 (32.4%)	41 (29.5%)	5 (3.6%)	48 (34.5%)	139
TMMA information sessions (on LexMedia)	17 (12.5%)	16 (11.8%)	6 (4.4%)	97 (71.3%)	136
TMMA email list	67 (48.2%)	62 (44.6%)	8 (5.8%)	2 (1.4%)	139
TMMA website	30 (21.7%)	55 (39.9%)	14 (10.1%)	39 (28.3%)	138

**4. Information Quantity and Quality (see comments section at end)**






**5. Consent Agenda: This is the second year we have bundled a select group of articles or sub-articles for one vote in a Consent Agenda. If a single Town Meeting member opposes inclusion of an item, it is pulled out of the Consent Agenda and debated and voted separately in the usual manner. The items recommended for the Consent Agenda are those that:**

- Will be indefinitely postponed, as no Town Meeting action is requested;
- Tend not to change from year to year;
- Are straightforward and fully explained in the "Brown Book"; or
- Are housekeeping in nature - requiring Town Meeting action, but no policy implications for the Town.





### Would you like to see a Consent Agenda used at future meetings?

Response	Chart	Percentage	Count
Yes		94.2%	131
No		2.2%	3
Not sure		3.6%	5
No opinion / doesn't matter		0.0%	0
		<b>Total Responses</b>	<b>139</b>

### 6. New Member Workshop: Please indicate your opinion of the Moderator's workshop for new Town Meeting Members:

Response	Chart	Percentage	Count
Helpful with the right amount of information		17.0%	23
Too much information at one time		2.2%	3
Too little information /Not helpful		0.0%	0
I am a new Town Meeting Member and did not attend		2.2%	3
N/A		78.5%	106
		<b>Total Responses</b>	<b>135</b>

### 7. Process and Parliamentary Procedure - General Understanding: In general, how would you rate your understanding of our Town Meeting Process and Procedures?

Response	Chart	Percentage	Count
Excellent		46.4%	64
Good		50.7%	70
Fair		2.9%	4
Poor		0.0%	0
		<b>Total Responses</b>	<b>138</b>

**8. Process and Parliamentary Procedure: Town Meeting follows Parliamentary Procedures that include the following:**

- **Making motions**
- **Amending motions**
- **Calling the question**
- **Serving notice of reconsideration**
- **Moving for reconsideration**
- **Rising for a point of personal privilege**
- **Rising for a point of order**

**How helpful would it be for you to have information about the above readily available through the following?**

	Very helpful	Helpful	Somewhat helpful	Not helpful	No opinion	Total Responses
YouTube video instruction	31 (23.0%)	33 (24.4%)	21 (15.6%)	22 (16.3%)	28 (20.7%)	135
Review & discussion of one of the above Parliamentary Procedures from 7:15pm - 7:30pm prior to each Town Meeting session	12 (9.0%)	35 (26.3%)	27 (20.3%)	34 (25.6%)	25 (18.8%)	133
Parliamentary Workshop and networking event	18 (13.4%)	30 (22.4%)	32 (23.9%)	23 (17.2%)	31 (23.1%)	134
Assignment of a Town Meeting mentor	19 (14.2%)	23 (17.2%)	31 (23.1%)	30 (22.4%)	31 (23.1%)	134


## 9. Deborah Brown, Moderator - Management and Leadership Feedback: At the 2016 Annual Town Meeting, did the Moderator consistently:

	Yes	No	Not sure / Don't Remember	Total Responses
Alternate among the Yes, No, Question, and Citizens' microphones?	132 (95.0%)	1 (0.7%)	6 (4.3%)	139
Require participants to refrain from personal attacks?	129 (92.8%)	4 (2.9%)	6 (4.3%)	139
Require participants to keep remarks / questions relevant to the topic of the motion?	127 (91.4%)	9 (6.5%)	3 (2.2%)	139
Make all guests in the gallery feel welcome?	131 (94.2%)	0 (0.0%)	8 (5.8%)	139
Treat all Town Meeting members and guests fairly?	135 (98.5%)	0 (0.0%)	2 (1.5%)	137
Make Town Meeting members feel that their participation is valued?	130 (93.5%)	3 (2.2%)	6 (4.3%)	139
Provide clear and adequate instructions?	136 (99.3%)	0 (0.0%)	1 (0.7%)	137
Make herself available and accessible before, during, and after Town Meeting?	108 (78.3%)	2 (1.4%)	28 (20.3%)	138
Exercise appropriate management of the meeting process without influencing the outcome?	135 (97.8%)	3 (2.2%)	0 (0.0%)	138
Demonstrate technical competence (the bylaws and parliamentary procedures) required of a Moderator?	137 (98.6%)	0 (0.0%)	2 (1.4%)	139
Demonstrate confidence in the role of Moderator?	136 (99.3%)	1 (0.7%)	0 (0.0%)	137







**10. Barry Orenstein, Deputy Moderator - Management and Leadership**  
**Feedback: When the Deputy Moderator was called upon to act as Moderator at the meeting on May 9, did he consistently:**

	Yes	No	Not sure / Don't Remember	Total Responses
Alternate among the Yes, No, Question, and Citizens' microphones?	101 (77.1%)	3 (2.3%)	27 (20.6%)	131
Require participants to refrain from personal attacks?	89 (67.4%)	5 (3.8%)	38 (28.8%)	132
Require participants to keep remarks / questions relevant to the topic of the motion?	87 (65.9%)	3 (2.3%)	42 (31.8%)	132
Make all guests in the gallery feel welcome?	94 (70.7%)	1 (0.8%)	38 (28.6%)	133
Treat all Town Meeting members and guests fairly?	115 (86.5%)	0 (0.0%)	18 (13.5%)	133
Make Town Meeting members feel that their participation is valued?	100 (76.3%)	1 (0.8%)	30 (22.9%)	131
Provide clear and adequate instructions?	88 (66.7%)	16 (12.1%)	28 (21.2%)	132
Make himself available and accessible before, during, and after Town Meeting?	64 (48.5%)	4 (3.0%)	64 (48.5%)	132
Exercise appropriate management of the meeting process without influencing the outcome?	109 (82.6%)	1 (0.8%)	22 (16.7%)	132
Demonstrate technical competence (the bylaws and parliamentary procedures) required of a Moderator?	88 (66.2%)	22 (16.5%)	23 (17.3%)	133
Demonstrate confidence in the role of Moderator?	82 (62.1%)	21 (15.9%)	29 (22.0%)	132

**11. Participation – Speaking: Did you speak at any of the microphones (Yes, No, and/or Question) during the entirety of 2016 Annual Town Meeting?**

Response	Chart	Percentage	Count
Yes ( then go to question 12)		54.5%	73
No (then go to question 13)		45.5%	61
		<b>Total Responses</b>	<b>134</b>

**12. Participation - Speaking ("YES" answers): If you *did speak* at any of the mics during Town Meeting - and answered YES to question 11 above - please check all of the following that apply:**

Response	Chart	Percentage	Count
I feel comfortable participating and expressing my views.		81.3%	61
I felt well-prepared to speak.		72.0%	54
I only speak when I feel I have something new to add to the debate.		89.3%	67
I felt that Town Meeting members were respectful and listened to my comments when I spoke.		85.3%	64
I like speaking at Town Meeting and make an effort to share my opinions.		37.3%	28
I spoke at Town Meeting because (see comments)		41.3%	31
		<b>Total Responses</b>	<b>75</b>



**13. Participation - Speaking ("NO" answers): If you *did not speak* during Town Meeting 2016 - and answered *NO* to question 11 above - please check all of the following that apply:**

Response	Chart	Percentage	Count
I feel comfortable participating and expressing my views but did not do so during this Town Meeting.		66.2%	43
I did not feel well-prepared to speak.		15.4%	10
I did not speak because others had already expressed my views or questions.		60.0%	39
I did not speak because I do not think Town Meeting Members respect my views.		3.1%	2
I am not comfortable expressing an opposing or minority view.		3.1%	2
I did not speak because (see comments)		16.9%	11
		<b>Total Responses</b>	<b>65</b>

**14. Constituent Contact: Did you receive questions or input from constituent(s) about any of the Articles on the 2016 Annual Town Meeting Warrant or the Special Town Meeting Warrants?**




Response	Chart	Percentage	Count
Yes (see comments for topics)		90.5%	124
No		9.5%	13
		<b>Total Responses</b>	<b>137</b>

**15. Constituents and Voting Record: Have you received any questions or comments from constituents about how you voted on particular issues this year?**





Response	Chart	Percentage	Count
Yes (see comments for topics)		33.1%	46
No		66.9%	93
		<b>Total Responses</b>	<b>139</b>

**16. Reason for Serving (see comments section at end)**





**17. Do you feel your participation in the 2016 Annual Town Meeting was time well spent?**

Response	Chart	Percentage	Count
Yes		94.9%	130
No		3.6%	5
Comment		13.9%	19
		<b>Total Responses</b>	<b>137</b>

**18. Years of Service: How many years have you served as a Town Meeting member?**

Response	Chart	Percentage	Count
1-2 years		18.1%	25
3-9 years		32.6%	45
10-19 years		19.6%	27
20+ years		29.7%	41
		<b>Total Responses</b>	<b>138</b>

**19. Continuation of Service: Do you plan to run for Town Meeting again when your present term is up?**

Response	Chart	Percentage	Count
Yes		67.9%	95
No		2.1%	3
Not sure		28.6%	40
N/A - I'm an at-large Town Meeting member		1.4%	2
		<b>Total Responses</b>	<b>140</b>

## **2016 Moderator's Survey of Town Meeting Members – Comments, Text Field Answers**

### **Q1 Overall Satisfaction - additional comments**

1. Many Town Meeting Members fail to question the overwhelming unanimous votes of the BOS and the financial committees. This rubber stamp activity is not conducive to good governance.
2. Inordinant amount of time on certain articles, eg, the roof repair to Muzzey
3. Too many sessions from start to finish.
4. As usual we spent way too much time on trivial budget matters
5. The only downside was the poor pre-presentation work done by the sponsor of the gun control article. As I said in my remarks before Town Meeting it could have been done far better and in a way that did not cause the overreaction of things like metal detectors at the entry points. Other than that it went smoothly with no wasted time.
6. The best there is to it
7. would prefer that no amendments be made or considered on articles on TM floor.
8. The Moderator's oversight of Town Meeting was superb in every way. That said, the length of presentations, particularly by Town staff/elected officials/interest groups was painfully long with hard to follow and read Power Point presentation after presentation. Lexington should consider taking a page from its neighboring communities, by limiting the length of these presentations (less than 10 minutes), the size of typeface allowed, graphics allowed, etc. Also, we all appreciate the work of Town Staff - but is it appropriate to take a recess in the middle of an already too-long TM to have Town staff give speeches about other staff? TMMA notice that an appreciation event will be held for whoever is retiring should be enough. No other neighboring community has Town Meetings which run on for months. The bottom line/impact is that the current length of Lexington TM discourages anyone for running for TM, who has a full-time job outside of Lexington, and needs to be at work by 9 am the next day.
9. It would be beneficial if the sound system could be tweaked so that it "worked" without having to remind every speaker how to hold a microphone. Since this was my first year as a TMM, I have nothing to compare it to. I do believe that the Moderator handled the meetings in a very professional and courteous manner.
10. Very smooth sailing. Even the more contentious articles where well handled.
11. First of all, the event as a whole was simply too long. The many Special Town Meetings, both before and during the Annual Town Meeting, created complications and time pressures that reduced the ability of Town Meeting to function properly. In addition, the large number of zoning articles made for an onerously long and complicated list of Warrant Articles.

12. too much time spent for too little action.
13. Would like more advance notice when special town meetings are being considered, let alone scheduled.
14. Very satisfied with moderator but found it somewhat mystifying that there was larger debates for smaller or less expensive items while larger investment decisions generally went with smaller discussion times.
15. I'd recommend having an electronic vote if a TMM calls the question instead of a voice vote.
16. Consent budget is the best.
17. The same people jump up to mike on almost every article. There should be a way for moderator to NOT call on people in order, but let others speak first?
18. The sessions were sometimes very long, requiring intensive reading preparation. Even at the cost of holding more meetings, it might be helpful to slow the pace.
19. Just too darn many sessions - running in to May! Can't we be more efficient? Too many special town meetings interfered with annual town meeting as well.
20. There were slight technology glitches and that took some time in some meetings. rest was great.
21. The articles should be addressed in the order in which they are placed in the warrant. Way too much jumping around this year.
22. well run

## **Q2 Documents and Presentations**

1. Unfortunately, timing is always the problem for committee reports. They are forced to play last-minute catch-up.
2. Municipal Capital projects need to be explained in the presentation, not just the amount of money, but how and on what it is being spent. The School projects were better explained.
3. This is the second year of lack of verbal explanation.
4. I wish that these reports were evidence based and available at an earlier time.
5. The most important ones to me are the Moderator's Schedule of Articles, the Capital Expenditures report, the remarks by the Town Manager and the remarks by DPW/Engineering, Facilities, Recreation and other Town staff.
6. Some documents were more helpful than others. I found the CPC's reports to be minimally helpful. They should have been much more prepared to answer questions or make sure someone was available to answer questions regarding the Antony Park project and its history. That one left me feeling a total lack of transparency by the town.
7. Planning Board presentations and materials offered were exceptional.
8. Supported the school budget & like the Superintendent, but her remarks not very helpful.

9. Although the large printed books (such as the 'brown book') are too detailed for me to read thoroughly, they are helpful to reference specific issues. As an older member, I prefer the printed material rather than trying to read online.
10. The sheer number of reports was overwhelming. I also renew my objection to the way the CPC presents its items. They have to consolidate some of their reports into group summaries, and they need to adjust their length in relation to the amount of dollars being appropriated.
11. Some speakers are clearer (and more audible) than others, and some article sponsors were not very well organized, but on the whole I look forward to the presentations because they are illuminating and helpful.
12. Written comments from the BoS would be helpful. CEC verbal comments have strayed away from financial impact of capital projects and relative prioritization - should be more focused on helping us understand the readiness and financial consequences
13. The quality of the written materials and presentations by article sponsors really varies. These materials should probably be vetted before distributed. For example, the statistics on gun violence were not really on point - should have been tailored specifically to the assault weapon ban. Also, sometimes the materials presented layout the general issues and ideas of a proposal but fail go to into enough detail about the budget or rationale for some of the projects. (ie for community preservation, we know that there are lists of projects, but it's unclear why certain projects are prioritized vs. others).
14. When we take a vote and there are some dissenting votes from a committee, I would like to have the dissenting opinion(s) explained.
15. Varies by sponsor
16. I was very disappointed in the TMMA booklet this time. I have always found it most helpful in the past but this year it was late and sketchy.
17. I like to hear what the various committees think about the different articles.
18. Presentation should not repeat everything from TMMA sessions. Slides should have bullet highlighted, not so detailed to be read by presenter.
19. Maybe we should go more paperless. If a town meeting member is going to read a very thick document, that person can read it on-line too. That way paper costs are eliminated.

### **Q3 TMMA Activities and Resources**

1. Warrant Info Book has often been a valuable resource but this year it was too little, too late.
2. I don't like the fact that any citizen has complete access to the TMMA email list by involving a Member. I feel that this is not a proper use of the list.
3. I continue to find bias in the TMMA Info book, which reduces it to an internal lobbying effort. Because of this, I generally do not use it.
4. TMMA Info Book was released too late and in pieces, so it was less useful than usual.

5. It is unfortunate that perhaps half of all TMMs attend the bus tour and the information sessions. A lot of material has to be repeated during Town Meeting. I go to the bus tour and the information sessions to get a sense of what is going on. I find it very useful in preparing for Town Meeting. The e-mail list, like all lists, is not terribly helpful. Too much argument, not enough information.
6. So many TMMA members do not come at the meeting, need to find out why. Sometimes the TMMA members get the information from other sources Little late!!
7. Not sure why the TMMA Info Book is compiled - it really is extraneous and not needed.
8. I believe rules for the email list should be revised to discourage individuals from saying how they are going to vote before we get to town meeting. The list should be used primarily as a resource for asking questions, and getting answers, NOT as a pre-town-meeting forum for expressing opinions. The TMMA information book has clearly become a burden that a few people manage, while the majority of TMMs just don't have the time. The result is minimally helpful information and a huge waste of paper. This should somehow be transformed to an online system or some other vehicle for summarizing the articles should be conceived.
9. I believe that the TMMA information book has outlived its usefulness. Information sessions and bus tour are useful.
10. The way the TMMA Information book was presented; that is in pieces and sometime at the meeting where the topic was being covered was a problem. We need it in one piece and before the first session.
11. The Warrant Information report was not good this year. More people volunteering to help is needed.
12. Given the timing of the Warrant and the late action from many Town boards and committees, along with the general lack of volunteerism with the TMMA, I think the TMMA Information Book should not have been published this year.
13. TMMA information sessions often seem a bit redundant, given the abundance of material online and in print, and then offered in almost the same form at Town Meeting.
14. TMMA info book has been great in the past, last year not so much, this year very fragmented and late
15. Info book should be done only online and in a wikipedia style, with people able to post info and/or pose their own questions to help presenters better prepare.
16. TMMA info book could be limited to non financial articles - Capital and Appropriation Committee cover the financial articles and have more depth/expertise to share.
17. TMMS information book (in several sections) was not as helpful as a single book.
18. The TMMA information book was not as effective this year as it has been in years past... I found the issuance in parts confusing, and didn't see the same in-depth analysis as in previous years. (I understand there were staffing constraints)

19. I was unable to attend the bus trip this year but I usually find it helpful.
20. The meeting sessions following in-person information sessions tend to be repetitions of the information sessions. Information given at full meetings could be more compressed. Unfortunately I had to miss three meetings when I was away at a conference so missed the benefit of some of these resources. They were generally helpful.
21. Re: the emails I would prefer significantly less "snark" in the exchanges. I often find the tone dismissive and disrespectful and as a consequence, off-putting.
22. I stopped attending the TMMA info sessions, because they were so repetitive of what we hear at town meeting anyway. The TMMA info book is truly a waste of resources. The only instances where it might be helpful are with regard to citizens articles as to which none of the standing committees makes a report. Otherwise, the standing committees are much better positioned to issue reports.
23. I would prefer to get "official" town meeting info from the town clerk, not TMMA.
24. Should not be allowing debate over TMMA email.

#### **Q4 Information Quantity and Quality:**

**Reflecting upon all of the information available to assist your decision-making at Town Meeting, please share any additional thoughts you have on:**

- **The quantity and quality of that information,**
  - **Whether the information was helpful, or**
  - **Whether something could be changed in some way to make the information more helpful.**
1. All materials were helpful and appreciated
  2. Information was generally helpful.
  3. Municipal Capital projects need to be explained in the presentation, not just the amount of money, but how and on what it is being spent. This is the second year of lack of verbal explanation. High value projects (+\$100,000) need to be questioned to tease out unforeseen issues that may arise during implementation. TM is a 'fresh' set of eyes, whereas working groups/committees have been close to the projects from the beginning and may have tunnel vision.
  4. We need to have more independent thinking from the "sheep" in Town Meeting who never question the leading committees, boards or staff. After all it's our money. We hear too often that Lexington is a "well run town" and focuses on our credit rating and not how we spent our money.
  5. The information is mostly very helpful - the discussion by various Town Meeting members is always very helpful in making my decisions.

6. Warrant info book far inferior to prior years.
7. See answer to question 3.
8. Late breaking availability of information may be unavoidable but it is the biggest problem. When we got it it was of good quality.
9. it often felt that information was late and rushed, making reasoned decisions more complicated.
10. I read the reports in order to make my decision on voting.
11. The School Com should have weighed in more on the decision to purchase the Armrnian Sister's school and disclosed to TM the dysfunction between the Head of the School Com and the Superintendent. Also, we need to address the benefits/risks of keeping the METCO program and if we keep it, getting the State to fund more of it. We need to document that every student is a resident and not getting a great education, when not playing by the rules.
12. I thought that the information was comprehensive and helpful.
13. There is excellent information available on the Town web site and from the finance committees. TMMA sessions are not well attended and are often redundant. The TMMA information book generally adds little information, and given the difficulty in getting volunteers to write it, could be discontinued.
14. It took me awhile to figure out something that not all TMMs understand and that is that staff cannot effectively champion an issue. That is up to the proponents of the article so those proponents must do a good job in presenting the issues and why we should all vote Yes. Staff is there for information so we have to ask intelligent questions and we need to do some serious homework and not depend on just attending the Town Meeting sessions.
15. Article sponsors who present to TM need to be informed of best practices regarding printed and projected information.
16. The document table is disorganized. It is hard to know what is old and what is new despite the "NEW" sign. Could the tables be separated so that NEW materials are distinguishable by location?
17. Sometimes the information is duplicative. One to let folks know one presented at the town meeting
18. quantity and quality was sufficient
19. Feel like we are wasting an awful amount of paper--perhaps an easier way to view documents online via the wifi?
20. I thought the quantity and quality of the information was fine.
21. The info sessions are the best way to get the needed info.
22. There's too much information, but I have no suggestions about how to separate the wheat from the chaff.



23. There is always a crowd before every session to get all the materials and handouts for the meeting. Many times (in order to not hold up the line) I end up re-taking handouts from previous days and then sift and sort through them during the meeting. Can we put prior materials on a separate table?
24. Quantity can easily be cut back without affecting quality.
25. I found the Information Booklet helpful as it was broken down in small bites (articles) when they were being presented. Quantity/Quality was fine and helpful.
26. More transparency, e.g., on assumptions built in about future expenditures, would be helpful with budget presentations made by Board of Selectmen/Town Manager. Also have great concerns with policy which assumes full tax levy will be used every year in annual budget.
27. The bigger the amount the less information provided such as for personnel costs and pension costs.
28. Context is important. It is very disappointing that there is no long- term financial planning to provide a ocontext for Town financial needs.
29. A 5-year plan and a 10-year plan (or at least a 3-year plan and a 5-year plan) would be most helpful. And they should be updated annually. Why do they not exist?
30. Good quality & quantity. I continue to be impressed by the amount of volunteer time expended. Planning Board hit the ball out of the park. Agree or disagree, I knew what I was voting on.
31. It was all helpful.
32. It is sometimes overwhelming.
33. The quality of the info was generally very good. The volume sometimes seemed overwhelming, but it's hard to think of any way of avoiding that.
34. Projected presentations are too often unreadable, with type too small and too much on a page.
35. I can hardly remember what happened at Tm this year. It would be more helpful to send this out as soon as TM is over
36. I believe that the quality of information was generally very good.
37. Perhaps due to the quantity of articles, the TMMA Information booklets were not always distributed in a timely fashion. Perhaps making them available online rather than in print could be considered. Generally, the information found in it (them) is useful. Information sessions: While I find information sessions useful, they are not well attended. I wonder how we might get a "preview" of the articles without asking town officials and other presenters to give another evening to the public, since the same information is presented at Town Meeting. If such information sessions continue, it is important for whoever

"moderates" them to ensure that they are just that: information sessions, not open to "debate."

38. I am just blown away by the fact that the Town Manager stated we collect only \$10,000 in rent per tenant per year at Munroe Center. Who gets to fix that amount? Why?
39. Often the written material was presented too late. That is when presented the night that the topic was cover. I don't have time to review it. When presented by email it should be at a minimum the day before the meeting.
40. TMMA info book was less timely, comprehensive, and helpful than typical in the past.
41. I felt that there were many difficult decisions this year. I think that there was enough information to help make decisions.
42. The TMMA information sessions are helpful to get preliminary details about various articles, but should be kept short so they don't substitute for TM discussion.
43. You can lead a horse to water, but you can't make him read the reports. We had a whole lot of questions from the floor that were very clearly answered in the available reports. We seem to be lacking two things: the motivation to use the available information in the first place, and (perhaps) an overall framework of information that would make it easy to find answers in advance.
44. I'm not a finance person, and the budget books are frankly incomprehensible to me. But I'm probably in the minority on this.
45. The distribution of printed material can be improved. It is not apparent which items are new, are updated or pertain to that evening's presentation. I end up with duplicate which just leads to clutter. All materials should be dated.
46. Presentations posted online in advance.
47. The quantity is always overwhelming. It comes down to reading the first and last sentences and then first and last paragraphs.
48. I think the use of technology will be useful - perhaps get rid of paper that is generated quite a bit
49. quantity of information was too high
50. Same as above. Committee reports on votes including both why "yes" and why "no."
51. Generally helpful
52. Keep the TMMS info booklet in one edition, even if it's a week late. Less confusing.
53. Have a uniform means to convey the date of a given handout. Colors hlep, but so would clearly legible dates.
54. Too much information! Difficult to read everything when one has a 50 plus hours/week job.

55. I'm not always sure where to access materials online. But this could very well be an oversight on my part.
56. This was my first year as a TMMA and I found the information very helpful.
57. Overhead charts are sometimes unreadable. Mikes still do not work well
58. As a rule most information was helpful though sometimes a bit repetitious. When information is presented I really appreciate when it is projected onto the screen. My "learning curve" works best when I can view the information. This need not be extensive but should outline the basic issues.
59. Collated booklet for each week's business might be more useful than segregating information by committee / board.
60. I think Marge's (and now Deborah's) comment that everything may have been said but not by everyone should apply to the TMMA listserv as well - YES it's very easy to delete. But I wish people were a little more thoughtful before they hit the send button
61. Generally helpful.
62. Some of the pre-town meeting information was redundant, especially the info sessions.
63. This is hard to answer in general. On specific articles there was a info I wish I had, but I was not shy about using the question microphone for that purpose.
64. I would prefer to have the town clerk post all relevant info on the town website at least 48 hours prior to when each article is scheduled. Having to locate a motion printed and left on the table two weeks or longer BEFORE the article is presented just doesn't work.
65. I continue too be impressed by the engagement of citizens in the process and their willingness to share their opinions. More listening to those with different perspectives should be facilitated by the moderator.
66. Just fine

### **Q5 Consent Agenda**

1. It's an excellent time-saver!
2. To pull an item from the agenda should be changed from 1 deserting member to a majority vote.
3. Excellent idea. Conserves time and energy.
4. I think the ability to withdraw an article from the Consent Agenda is a reasonable safeguard against anything accidentally getting by. I think it is a good idea.
5. There should be more on the consent agenda
6. good idea
7. Too much opportunity to slip in an issue that should receive closer examination.

8. I'D LIKE MORE ITEMS LISTED ON THE CONSENT AGENDA. We still seem to spend more time on items inverse to their budget impact. 10 minutes on the school budget and an hour on something that might be \$50,000, and the the 140-5 vote in favor.
9. Have wished for explanation on some IPd articles, but I think they weren't on the consent agenda. Can't remember.
10. Good idea!
11. This has worked well and saved us time.
12. The consent agenda should be used annually for those articles that normally get approval every year.
13. Very helpful to get quickly through many articles that will get unanimous support. Saves much time.
14. Please formalize a maximum dollar cap for items on the Consent Agenda.
15. An innovative idea, very efficient and time-saving!
16. Certainly saves time.
17. Wonderful!
18. Absolutely!
19. Use of Consent Agenda is effective.
20. The consent agenda is a good innovation so long as members can easily take items off if they wish to do so.
21. They are valuable in saving time while allowing for further discussion as desired.
22. More could be added, given that many votes were virtually unanimous.
23. Add more items - as many as possible - to the consent agenda!
24. However only for truly routine business. There is a tendency for some till think their is broader consensus. Even when that is true it gives the illusion that only concurrence is tolerated.

#### **Q6 Moderator's workshop for new Town Meeting Members**

1. We have an excellent Moderator, who is very close to perfection. I do think that our Moderator should see that membership on a finance committee is not a lifetime appointment.
2. It has been awhile since I attended a new member workshop and I missed the one three years ago I wanted to go to when I went from a BOS member to a Pct 9 member. But I think the idea of a workshop is a good one. I plan to attend before the next spring Town Meeting just to see what they are like now.
3. I did not attend. But I know that they help new TMMs.

4. As a presenter at these workshops, I feel that it's a very disorganized and haphazard introduction to TM. I suggest limiting the number of presenters to three, each with roughly 20 min. of material.
5. How about pairing new town meeting members with a veteran mentor for their first year as a town meeting member. I think we don't give enough opportunities to reach out to new members and they sometimes feel they are outsiders. A mentor could provide a new model for inclusion.

### **Q8 Process and Parliamentary Procedure**

1. I especially like the workshop and mentor ideas.
2. I think both the workshop and the review before each Town Meeting are wonderful ideas -- and even those of us who think we know everything can always learn more!
3. N/A
4. These may be helpful to new members. Should be second nature to old members. It would distract from conversations about actual meeting business if held in the hall before the meeting.
5. I think a TM mentor is a great idea. When I first joined, several of my peers were also new and we had an unofficial mentor (or two) who met with us as a group and it was incredibly helpful.
6. Hmmmmmm. Not sure. The idea I like best is the 7:15-7:30 mini-workshop. I think one of the best bridges over knowledge gaps is that the Moderator typically explains, in some detail, what is going on so one never has a chance to say "I had no idea and I just missed that completely."
7. Every new member should be assigned someone in their precinct who can answer questions.
8. There are questions posed by citizens and even me. How can citizens submit their agenda for including in town meetings process and systems maybe we should make it easy -- printed information after town elections
9. I have helped TMMs on procedure. I am available anytime during TM to help with procedure. Glad to help.
10. Workshop might be helpful. Mentor seems a bridge too far.
11. All 8 ideas are Great ideas
12. Reviewing parliamentary procedures at the opening of Town Meeting (first session) is useful, but is not necessary at each session. Most if not all of the procedures can be found in the booklet "Town Meeting in Lexington." Referencing that booklet from time to time might be worthwhile.
13. After a number of years in TM, I understand this pretty well.

14. TMMs need to learn parliamentary procedures, I see no need for reviewing it every night before TM.
15. I'm pretty well versed on the procedures, but would be happier if more of my colleagues were comparably informed.
16. I have been a member for 3 years. In that time, I feel that learned what I needed to know as issues arose. I relied on other members from my precinct to explain things I didn't understand. I think the idea of a mentor might be helpful for new members.
17. A workshop would allow Q&A and interactive discussions on topics and thus be more helpful than just watching a video.
18. The most complicated procedure that we have to execute on a routine basis is amending a motion. Some kind of video summary might help. More useful would be a dynamic visual indicator on the big screen of where we are in the amendment process (what is being debated? what is being voted on? what has already been approved/disapproved?).
19. I'd be happy to help mentor
20. Like the idea of a Town Meeting mentor for new members!
21. Honestly, I think that the TMM workshop for the 8th graders could be really helpful and probably enough initial information that could be used for new TMMs.
22. I don't need these aides but I think they would serve newer members. I think a pre-meeting prior to each Town Meeting may be overly burdensome to the Town Moderator.
23. I am lucky enough to have friends to answer questions, but assigning mentors would be a great way to get to know your fellow TMMs.
24. I'm not sure that I've been assigned a mentor. Would have been helpful when I joined Town Meeting, but I'm able to follow along and ask questions of my fellow precinct members.
25. For new members, having someone to call or email would be helpful. A YouTube video reference would also help.
26. could be useful for new TMMs
27. Don't need any additional guidance
28. How about a PDF posted on the town clerk's web site?
29. We are thinking alike. Earlier response re mentor

### **Q9 Deborah Brown, Moderator - Management and Leadership Feedback**

1. She was excellent and professional at all times.
2. I thought the management of the Article 34 session was exemplary -- a potentially difficult situation that was very well handled.
3. Our current Moderator is the greatest thing since the invention of the microwave oven.
4. Most appreciated is her sense of humor when things get tiresome!

5. Moderator is professional and first rate in performing her duties.
6. Our Moderator is exceptionally competent. She is a gift to the Town.
7. I'd like the Moderator to remind people not to repeat the same points that were already made, only offer new points of view. Also, there are 2 dozen TMM who monopolize the microphone and perhaps the Moderator could speak with them privately and value their contribution, but tell them that we are trying to streamline the duration of TM and to minimize their contributions to essential topics. Also, TMM don't seem to get the point that amendments on the floor are discouraged, is there a way to get this point across, more effectively?
8. Deborah Brown rocks!!!
9. Moderator is excellent. Manages the meetings with authority and good humor.
10. OMG--the Moderator is superb. In fact, the whole sort of administrative effort of which the Town Clerk and her crew plus Barry Orenstein, Debbie Strod, and others are a part, runs very smoothly. Moreover, it is obvious that there is an adult in charge of the room. Next year the Cafe may have to bump the pre-game refreshments for the crew on the stage to two cookies per person. :-)
11. great moderator
12. The Moderator did a terrific job again this year. The complexity and number of article on the warrant this year made the Moderator's job very challenging.
13. Nicely done once again.
14. We are very fortunate to have Deborah Brown as our Moderator. I was especially proud to be a Lexington Town Meeting Member during her moderation of Article 34 when it was being live-streamed and so many people were watching.
15. I think Deb does a good job running the meetings. On the flip side, the one time I introduced myself to Deb the response was " I know" with no introduction of herself or her role - - I had no idea who Deb was as I was a new TM member and we were at a pre-meeting. This has been my one and only exchange with the moderator and I've yet to shake its lasting negative and flippant impression.
16. Terrific job.
17. Deb is an excellent moderator. My one wish is that Deb would act more strictly on TM Members whose comments are tangential to the issue at hand.
18. Kudos for a job well done!
19. The moderator does a great job.
20. Deb is outstanding in her role. TM would not function as smoothly as it does without her.
21. We are so lucky to have Deborah as our moderator. I am continually impressed at the way she navigates this challenging position.

22. Meetings ran smoothly with good wrangling of the 200 TM members.
23. Deborah was masterful as always, particularly on the challenging evening when we discussed Article 34. Her humor and grace are most welcome. I sometimes wonder about a tendency to tease a member at the mike; this always sits a little uncomfortably with me, even if it's well-meant and the member doesn't seem to mind; but the balance of power (Moderator on the dais publicly teasing a member on the floor) makes me uneasy. This is very unlike her usual patient and respectful demeanor toward all, which is no easy position to maintain.
24. Thank you for your patience and sense of humor.
25. I think that the moderator does a great job. The only suggestion is the use of names. It's a bit awkward for the new TMMs, when the moderator does not call new members by name, but uses names when she knows them. Of course, we can't expect the moderator to know every new face, but perhaps she should just not refer to people's names until after they introduce themselves at the microphone.
26. My "no" on keeping comments relevant were only in one instance, and I honestly can't remember which one. Occasionally there is a member who makes a personal statement on a subject (I remember one last year on the medical marijuana plant to be placed on Hartwell) that was a personal opinion on marijuana in general, not on the topic at hand. Like I said, I forget this year's. I'd say 99.9% of the time, the moderator does a great job of keeping speakers to the article that is before us.
27. We are incredibly fortunate to have Deborah Brown as our Town Moderator.
28. She does an excellent job in every way.
29. We are lucky to have her.
30. Deborah does an excellent job as moderator!
31. Deborah Brown is a first rate moderator. She's excellent.
32. As always, Deborah Brown does an excellent job as moderator.
33. She is a terrific Moderator!!!!Knowledgeable, clear, pleasant and a joy to work with.
34. Deborah keeps the meeting on time and on target...she was especially impressive and effective when the gun article was presented
35. She did a great job this year leading TM and demonstrated her competence time and again. She used her sense of humor very effectively.
36. Deb is a Town treasure
37. Nice job!
38. Most of these questions don't lend themselves to Yes/No/Not Sure answers. Better to have a scale from 1 to 5.



39. town officials and boards are allowed to respond to comments when not asked to. This essentially gives them extra opportunities to advocate their position. I would like the moderator to prevent this as it is not allowed under parliamentary rules.

#### **Q10 Barry Orenstein, Deputy Moderator - Management and Leadership Feedback**

1. Barry did great... not perfect, but way better than 99% of us could have done. This is not a job that one can do just occasionally.
2. Barry Orenstein did a wonderful job in leading Town Meeting and deserves a lot of credit for his outstanding leadership.
3. Fortunately, we didn't have to use the "stand-in" too often to be able to make judgement on his performance.
4. Barry did yeoman work. Needed support occasionally.
5. Overall, I seem to remember he did a fine job.
6. Command of the procedure takes practice.
7. It was a good showing. Maybe an Oscar for best supporting actor in a long-running drama?
8. practice makes perfect. Barry was a great choice and the more he fills in the easier it will be for him.
9. Needs more practice
10. another good volunteer
11. The Deputy Moderator did an equally fine job.
12. It's a very hard job, and he did fine.
13. Barry did a fine job. Can't adequately answer Y/N questions. Need a bigger range of choices.
14. Problems seemed totally related to first time in role. Obviously qualified; likely just nervous.
15. No offense, but the Deputy Moderator this time did not seem prepared or up to the task, unlike previous Deputy Moderators. He seemed very unsure of himself.
16. Nice job!
17. "No" is too strong for "technical competence"! A couple of gaffes occurred, but, in general, they were minor and probably those of a "rookie." The Deputy Moderator was on the whole very competent.
18. There was very little time when he was moderating but I would say that he need more time to perfect the role/
19. It was Barry's first time moderating and he showed a few jitters but I feel he has great potential.
20. I recall one or two stumbles for the Deputy Moderator for which we had to interrupt the proceedings in order to proceed correctly.

21. This assessment sounds harsher than I mean to be. Barry was his usual good-humored and patient self, but was a little shaky on procedure--not surprising under the circumstances, and very minor. We were all happy to have him there.
22. Barry did a great job as a first time moderator in a difficult situation of closing 3 town meetings in one night. He has a high standard to meet and does not yet exude the confidence provided by Ms Brown - but thanks for his willingness to serve and a good first outing
23. He did fine. I don't remember the specifics.
24. I honestly don't remember much about Mr. Orenstein's time at the microphone, but I do recall that there was a couple of points of confusion. It's a hard job to step into!
25. Did a great job, especially considering the size of the shoes (metaphorically speaking) he was filling.
26. Recused self here.
27. It's hard to compare him with Deborah - I think he only took over once or twice. But he did fine.
28. I'm not sure I have full recall of this meeting, but I believe it was conducted satisfactorily
29. Same comment here as in question #9. Therefore, I am responding NOT SURE to all.

**Q12 I spoke at Town Meeting because:**

1. If I never used a mic, then I don't belong in TM.
2. As a long-time As a long-time member and resident, I feel a responsibility to share my views.
3. it's my job to add to the discussion when I have new information to contribute and/or when I can effect the outcome because of my experience, longevity or reputation.
4. Had a perspective to add to the topic
5. I felt it was important to share my understanding and reasoning on an issue, which had not been represented.
6. Once as chair of TAC and a couple more times because I felt strongly about an issue. In the minority except on the TAC issue.
7. I had pertinent information
8. I was also an Article sponsor
9. I felt that I had questions that needed to be answered.
10. I had a new perspective on an issue
11. I felt I had something to ask/say that others did not.
12. In order to obtain clarification on specific issues.

13. I had something to say.
14. I am completely uncomfortable speaking. You only have positive options for speaking.
15. my professional qualifications can occasionally lead to useful remarks
16. A couple of serious issues arose, about which I felt particularly passionate.
17. I felt I had a viewpoint that no one else expressed, or a question I had not heard.
18. I find there is waste of taxpayer money and we can do a better job
19. most when I had a question
20. I felt strongly about certain issues and wanted to support my point of view or add a perspective that hadn't yet been expressed.
21. Committee member & Amendment Sponsor
22. TM is too quick to accept proposals to spend money.
23. Article presenter
24. I felt strongly about the article and felt a need to explain further about the impacts on the town and why members should vote in the affirmative. Also, I was either a proponent of the question or was involved in the development of the question. I also feel comfortable asking questions where I feel the presenter has been a bit muddy about some details.
25. I wanted to make a point about Senior citizens and accessory apts.
26. I felt strongly about the issue.
27. I felt strongly about an issue
28. Mostly to ask questions of knowledgeable town staff
29. I had strong feelings/opinions about specific matters.
30. To inform about a topic related that was not yet considered.

**Q13 I did NOT speak at Town Meeting because:**

1. i had health issues this year
2. I am on a committee and I do not feel comfortable wearing two hats. My opinions rest with the majority of the committee on which I serve
3. Many issues facing the town meeting has gone thru political advocacy and campaigns for and against and perhaps one can even go to some extent as the decision is already made minus some changes -so why speak!!
4. Question called while i was near microphone.
5. uncomfortable with public speaking.
6. Someone called the question while I was waiting in line to speak.
7. Am deputy moderator

8. sometimes I did not feel prepared
9. sometimes, there were so many speakers, i avoided to not waste others' time.

### **Q12-13 Additional comments about speaking/participation**

1. The finance committees seem to focus on the sources and timing of expenditures but seem to have no opinion on the price tags or pay any attention to developing a cost/benefit analysis. We have a history of buying at retail and selling at wholesale.
2. There are two things I have noticed. One is that loud opposition sometimes drowns out softer agreement. And that some people are afraid to speak out on an unpopular issue. We need to hear ALL voices.
3. Wonderful platform for a few who does not miss opportunity to provide input and proud of them
4. Would like to see that all the citizens who are coming to participate is given opportunity before any one want to close the debate
5. I was a presenter at a Special Town Meeting session and felt comfortable for the most part speaking to the assembled members.
6. I only speak if I feel absolutely sure that nobody else will make my point before debate ends.
7. Although I'm used to speaking in other parts of my life and speak at Town Meeting when I feel it's necessary, I understand why most members don't. It's still, somehow, an intimidating situation, I don't quite know why.
8. I feel comfortable at the mics. When I have something to say or ask I do. Whether I ask a question and go to the yes or no mics probably happened.
9. I am comfortable speaking in town meeting.

### **Q14 On what topics did you receive questions or input from constituent(s)?**

1. Stop lights, gun control, override
2. planning board issues; guns; three intersections project
3. gun control proposal, and planning board proposals
4. Article 34, traffic lights
5. Planning Board items; Streetscape designs and process
6. Gun article
7. Residential floor area ratio.
8. streetscape issues
9. traffic lights, guns
10. Planning articles

11. gun resolution--in support; Article 10g--please vote no
12. guns, zoning
13. zoning, gun control, capital budget
14. Planning, Guns
15. Planning board articles
16. Assault rifle ban
17. Streetscape, Mass Ave intersections,school capital, bikeway signs
18. The gun article, Brookhaven expansion
19. zoning and Monroe Tavern
20. Article 34; rezoning articles
21. Zoning
22. Guns, Schools,
23. art. 34
24. STM-1: Art.3; STM-2: Article 2; ATM: Articles 4, 29, 34, 38, 42
25. gun, planning articles
26. traffic lights and gun control
27. Gun warrant article.
28. Very little. Gun control topped the list.
29. brick sidewalks
30. FLAR, Assault weapons, other housing zoning
31. Gun, Traffic light, center street project, bricks, safety, school budget, planning boards, housing and many issues
32. Article 34
33. Zoning
34. gun topic, house size restrictions
35. The Issue of Guns
36. Guns, Planning Board zoning changes
37. Zoning, School Capital
38. Planning Board articles
39. Brookhaven
40. Article 34 guns-CPA Article Lights for Lexington Arts/Crafts society

41. zoning, new Hastings, firearms
42. school costs and taxes
43. guns, housing
44. gun control, traffic control on Mass Ave
45. East Lexington road proposals. Zoning height restrictions.
46. Zoning articles
47. Assault weapons issue
48. Gun Control
49. Only a couple of emails or postal letters regarding banning assault weapons and the Planning Board articles.
50. Weapons article, planning board articles
51. Guns and schools mostly
52. Art. 34 - guns
53. Zoning, guns, roads
54. zoning
55. Gun Control, Zoning
56. zoning items
57. I received in put on several articles.
58. Gun
59. guns, streetscape, CPA, school budget
60. Planning board articles and the gun control article.
61. zoning, capital funding
62. Article 34, Planning Board articles
63. planning articles; school projects; sidewalks; guns
64. <don't recall topic(s)>
65. Guns, all the Planning Board articles
66. guns, traffic lights
67. more then ever before Art 34, 39,41 and others
68. Mansionization and traffic light issue/ school expansion
69. Assault weapon ban, planning board articles
70. zoning

71. Many comments on the gun question and the lights in East Lexington.
72. Center traffic
73. Planning articles
74. Planning Board, Streetscape
75. Article 41
76. FAR
77. Bob Rotberg's article, the FAR article
78. zoning articles
79. Gun control article and article related to property modifications
80. the Assault weapons ban, the accessory apartment and other zoning issues.
81. Gun control. Zoning
82. guns, zoning bylaw changes
83. Limits to housing size, other Planning Board articles, gun article
84. gun control, zoning.
85. Traffic lights in East Lexington
86. Zoning, guns, roundabouts
87. Zoning articles restricting size of replacement houses
88. the gun issue
89. Perhaps four or five times.
90. guns, planning board initiatives, Woburn St. improvements
91. Gun bylaw
92. Assault weapons resolution
93. Monroe Tavern new construction
94. Center Streetscape, Gun Bylaw
95. Mansionization
96. Zoning; firearms debate; street scape; traffic lights; school projects
97. Various topics on e-mail list
98. gun control, zoning
99. Planning Board Articles: FAR, etc
100.       Zoning
101.       Gun Control as one example

**Q15 On what issues did you receive questions or comments from constituents about how you voted?:**

1. Stop lights, gun control. Override
2. Most articles
3. Antony Park
4. The granting of variances by the BOA and multifamily houses.
5. Planning Board articles
6. Article related to gun control
7. Article 34
8. Positive
9. gun article
10. CPA appropriation for the purchase of the Pelham property.
11. but been told to vote one of the other way
12. Gun control
13. many
14. Article 34
15. guns, housing, zoning
16. traffic control on Mass Ave
17. Zoning, Guns
18. Related to housing - house size, apartments, etc
19. One constituent "insisted" that I vote a certain way. I told him he was not allowed to insist, and he backed down.
20. No comments "post-voting," only before a vote.
21. Zoning
22. Thanks for supporting the planning board articles.
23. zoning
24. antony park
25. Planning Board articles
26. discussion on Guns/ Yes for schools
27. Assault weapon ban
28. FAR



29. zoning articles
30. Zoning. Gun control.
31. Assault weapons issue
32. House size limits,
33. Same as 14
34. Traffic light at Woburn St.
35. zoning
36. Gun control and the size of homes, and for mass ave construction
37. Zoning
38. On gun control and other topics i received emails, phone calls

### **Q16 Reason for Serving**

**Please complete the following statement. I serve as a Town Meeting member because:**

1. I like to know what is going on.
2. To represent constituents
3. it is a way for me to give back to my community.
4. I care about Lexington and want to have a say in what happens to our citizens and our town.
5. I feel that it is important to be involved in the town and my demographic (families with young kids) is not well represented in Town Meeting.
6. I feel it's important for citizens to participate in Town Meeting. It makes me a much more informed resident of Lexington.
7. I enjoy understanding how things work and I find public policy fascinating.
8. it's a way to have direct influence on quality of life in the town where I live.
9. I value my community and would like to contribute
10. It's part of who I am. I must contribute whatever talents I have, to make Lexington a more vibrant community.
11. I actually enjoy the decision-making process which determines how Lexington should proceed on issues that will affect our future quality of life.
12. I try to influence how the Town operates
13. I feel that my viewpoint, as a long time resident (and now, as several decades in town meeting) is less reactionary than some and takes into account the long term perspective.
14. I was encouraged to do so by other members.

15. it is important for citizens to contribute to the decision-making process regarding local policies.
16. I can represent my constituents - their needs and wishes
17. I like to understand how our town works and how our town's working can be improved.
18. I love this Town and feel a responsibility as a citizen to participate. America works only if we actively engage.
19. Serve the community.
20. I think in representative democracy citizens must participate especially me members of minority community. Additionally, I consider it community service which I highly value.
21. I feel it is a civic duty, and important to all the residents to have good representation
22. I feel it is important for each precinct to have a full quota of representatives at town meeting, and have stood for town meeting twice to fill out the ranks in our precinct.
23. I think it matters and democracy only works if people participate.
24. I have a say in how money is budgeted, by-laws authored or changed, zoning
25. I like to help the town be a better place to live for everyone..
26. civic duty
27. I like to have my say. Besides, anything of value needs to be supported, such as Town Meeting.
28. It is the most direct way of participating in the governance of my community.
29. This could run to several pages so I will contain myself. I serve because it involves me in the town and it gives me, and those around me, a voice in how things are done.
30. My experience as a volunteer in many aspects of community affairs and a long term commitment to TM gives me the perspective and knowledge needed to do the job.
31. It is educational, enjoyable. Learn a lot.Can support initiatives I think important.Like 'being in the know.'
32. It is my duty to be involved in the community
33. citizen participation is important for the growth of this wonderful community and providing something different as I do in health care , education and diversity can add try to be good citizen by listening ,learning and providing thoughts
34. I enjoy being a representative of my neighborhood and want the Town of Lexington to be the best we can be.
35. I am interested in Town Government and believe serving as a Town Meeting Member keeps me focused on the key issues facing the Town of Lexington and gives me an opportunity to weigh in and consider those issues.
36. I love and care for Lexington
37. It is my civic duty to participate and volunteer.

38. It's important to be informed about what goes on in Lexington
39. I feel it is my civic contribution to the town.
40. I have the ability and time where others do not, and I like to make sure everyone has a voice.
41. all citizens should give back to their community.
42. I believe in participating in the important TM decision making process that affects me, my family and my community as a whole. Of particular importance to me are zoning, town/school budget's and quality of schools.
43. It is an opportunity to serve my community with my professional tool set, more importantly, it is an opportunity to be responsive to the concerns of my constituents.
44. interest in town issues
45. I try to help maintain good services at reasonable cost.
46. I believe in public service
47. I feel I can be useful and I enjoy the process.
48. I believe it is my civic duty to serve my community.
49. I think it is important/civic duty
50. I like to know (and possibly influence) what is going on in the Town.
51. I am interested in the decision making in the town.
52. I am interested in town government and I want to be engaged.
53. It allows me to learn about Lexington and I enjoy the process, which, while not necessarily efficient, is startlingly democratic and civil.
54. I feel it is a civic duty to participate in the oldest, most continuous form of direct democracy in the world. I enjoy being "in the know" on what is happening in the town, and this is the best forum for that. And I want to represent the values this town has in education and high standards.
55. Participation in town governance is critical to maintaining a healthy and vibrant community.
56. I am very interested in the issues facing Lexington and appreciate the opportunity to participate in Town government and represent the views of my neighbors
57. it is important to be involved in one's town.
58. I value learning about what impacts our town and being part of the decision-making process that affects life in Lexington.
59. when I look at my property taxes, I see them going higher every year. I understand they need to increase to a certain degree. I wanted to be part of the process and understand the cash flows. But I still see waste and that needs to be eliminated.

60. I want to be involved in how the community is operating and to be involved in the discussion of what lexington will be in the future
61. The most important reason is to serve the Town. Beyond that I enjoy participating and meeting fellow citizens who are also interested in Town affairs.
62. It is the most effective way to have input on local issues
63. like the civic engagement and feel I have values and knowledge to share
64. This is our form of government. It's very important to participate.
65. Wish to participate in decisions relating to the quality of our lives in Lexington
66. I am interested in serving my community and also in many of the issues TM deals with.
67. I am committed to public service and Town Meeting is a way to know what is going in town and a way to be feel like I am giving back to the town in some way.
68. Lexington is my home and I want to make sure that families with young children have a say in what goes on in this town.
69. Serving is an excellent way to stay in tuned with what is happening in our community.
70. Having been a long time resident of Lexington, I enjoy giving back to the town, I enjoy learning more about town government, and enjoy passing on town government information to local friends and neighbors when asked.
71. I feel an obligation to serve my community and to understand the decisions that we make as a town.
72. I like understanding what's going on in town, participating in the process, and getting to know the town workers and decision-makers who make things happen.
73. I want to participate the decisions made in Town as they, in general, would/could apply to me and believe I have something to offer to the deliberations on those matters.
74. I feel a duty to take a responsible role in the management of my community.
75. the key to democracy is civic participation. I care deeply about the future of the town and the feel more young families need to be represented in town meeting.
76. I value the town and my neighbors and want to see them flourish.
77. I was voted in
78. I am interested in and care about what happens in Town.
79. I want to serve my precinct and be a part of the decision making process.
80. To serve the community
81. I believe in the power of local governance and diversity of opinions . Also tax payers have a right to know that their money is well used. It is important to represent the rising new

demographic so that the town seems to represent all views and citizens and also inspires new generations to serve society.

82. I wanted to give back to the Town in some way
83. I think it is important to be informed and involved in community decisions and feel that the younger generation, racially/ethnic diverse and working parents' perspectives need to be heard.
84. I expect to serve my community.
85. I enjoy being part of the process of making Lexington a better town for all. There are many hot topics these days and I feel better educated and strongly about the direction of the town. I have lived here for 41 years and have seen the changes and want to be part of the decision-making. Sometimes I feel the TM is a rubber-stamp group, and I do not find that to be stimulation, but overall, it is a good experience.
86. I believe that the democratic process is not a spectator sport. It is important to make sure all citizens have a voice and I work to represent my constituents.
87. I want to make myself useful and maintain or improve the quality of life here.
88. I enjoy giving back to my Town. Also, it's "entertaining."
89. as a woman, I will never take for granted the right to participate in our democracy.
90. I like seeing a comprehensive view of town affairs and having a say in the decisions made.
91. I want to be involved in the decision making process on issues affect ting me.
92. I enjoy being actively involved in my community
93. Everyone has an obligation to give back to our community. I feel very fortunate to live in a town with such great community involvement and so many great resources.
94. I wish to participate in decision-making that affects our town.
95. I wanted to learn more about the functioning of the Town, and wanted to serve the town that my family has called home for the past 15 years.
96. I'm interested in. Town government
97. I hope to be able to add something to the decision-making process.
98. I can make a difference on the character of the town and issues of quality (schools, zoning, taxes, )
99. I want to have a voice in local government decisions.
100. I represent the Lexingtonians who live at Brookhaven. So many of them tell me how much they
101. appreciate my time and efforts.
102. I am trying to effect change in the town.

103. To participate in town government
104. In the beginning it was the "thrill" (and novelty) of directly participating in a democratic process that exists w/ in few places in the world (and unique to this region.) Now over the years participation has become more of a sense of obligation and duty, meaning it is a way to be involved and have a voice in what's going on in Lexington.
105. I believe Town Meeting is a fine example of Democracy and it is the duty and privilege of citizens to contribute to their communities.
106. I enjoy being apart, albeit a small part, in the civic life of the town, being informed about town affairs and playing a role in the political life of a free society.
107. I feel it is important to participate in town government and stay informed of the various issues being faced
108. I love Lexington and (1) care about the quality of life here, (2) care about how town resources are allocated, and (3) feel I do a good job of doing what's best for the town according to my and its values.
109. I enjoy participating in town government and feel we all have a civic duty.
110. I care about important issues in Lexington and want to have a voice in ongoing policy-making.
111. I want to do whatever I can to keep the Town well-run and on the right track.
112. It is important to me to take part in the participatory democracy of running my town.
113. I want to have a role in carrying out things important to the Town
114. We are active consumers of what Lexington provides and feel an obligation to assist in/ inform the management of these resources. I also represent a demographic (under 50) that I believe to be sorely under-represented in Town Meeting
115. I find the issues interesting, I like to know what's going on in town, and I like to have a vote in the process.
116. citizen participation is what makes our town's government work for us.
117. To make the town better
118. I want to contribute to town affairs.
119. I would like to give back to the community from which I benefited so much. It is a duty, that i feel obligated and proud to fulfill.
120. I am passionate about Lexington and want to help make it be the place my children choose to live in.
121. I am interested in the town
122. I like to be involved. 2. My minor in college was political science 3. I am sort of a community organizer.

**Q17 Do you feel your participation in the 2016 Annual Town Meeting was time well spent?**

1. I got in some quality sleep time!
2. As always, I felt that we thoughtfully considered the issues of concern.
3. Although I would like to experience people not reiterating what has already been clearly stated by others. Some topics drag on far longer than is reasonable.
4. So many of the votes are by overwhelming majority, I don't know why we need to spend 1.5 hours debating a question that 90+% of us are going to vote YES for? Would it be possible to have a pre indication poll on TMM floor, before the presentation, in order to streamline the process. When was the last time we voted NO on the School Budget, for example?
5. mixed opinion. For those who feel fully engaged, it is a very active and inspiring exercise of citizenship. For those of us who are less so, it is not always so interesting.
6. This years TM was extremely beneficial with some very important issues in particular the zoning articles.
7. We could still be more efficient in how we conduct our meetings.
8. Sometimes
9. It was a bit of a burden this year, but I'm glad I was able to vote on issues important to me.
10. Sometimes I bemoan the number of sessions and the length of some of them!
11. It's a hugely inefficient system, so "Yes" isn't quite right, since a lot of time is wasted, but it's hugely democratic, and waste is a part of that, I suppose.
12. nearly everything passes by ridiculously high margins
13. Sometimes it does feel like TMM just votes Yes because we have no idea about specific budgets/questions that have to do with specific departments, etc. That doesn't feel very good, but on the other hand, TMMs don't have time to figure it out either!
14. some of it
15. Because of some of the planing board decisions, I felt that this year in particular was a turning point year.
16. This was one of the most time consuming TMs. Needed a lot of study and consideration about articles of importance to citizens
17. Sometimes it feels tedious and a waste of time and frustrating, but on the whole, a worthwhile activity.
18. Of course, when the debates get repetitive it gets frustrating

**Q20. Please offer any additional feedback or comments you would like to share with the Moderator and Deputy Moderator.**

1. The article discussion related to the gun control issue was not managed as well as I had hoped. Specifically, I was not comfortable with the comments of the police chief which for me bordered on being inappropriate. I had trouble distinguishing between staff as advisors and as directors and I felt that those aspects of a difficult discussion could have been better managed by the moderator.
2. I wish this survey had been sent out immediately after TM ended. The whole TM experience would have been much fresher in my mind.
3. I did feel like this year's TM voted on some important issues and I was proud to be able to participate in the process.
4. Town Meeting and some of the professional staff looked very bad in the way they dismembered Bob Rorberg's Article, short-circuiting any real discussion. Non-residents had free reign to tell Lexington how to run their town. This was the worst I have ever seen in all my years as a TMM. The fear was palpable and sickening.
5. This is the second time I have submitted this data. Hope it connects this time.
6. Please continue improving the sound system.
7. Usually presenters are singing to the choir or preaching to the already converted. If we know a Yes vote is likely and if TMM have availed themselves of the multitude of informational resources, prior to the vote, there is no need for so much debate. I feel hostage to the few TMM who have a need for their voice to be heard, over and over. I think the School Com should behave done a better job of being up front about several issues, redistricting, the overpopulation crisis and the short or long term solution, the internal controversies, etc. I think they need an expert to help them all get along, to better serve the town or the head should resign.
8. This fluidsurveys.com website keeps resetting my survey results to empty before I am finished filling in all my answers. Sorry, you lost me after the second attempt got wiped.
9. I wasn't very pleased with Selectman Kelley speaking on Article 10g, the East Mass Ave easements, as he spoke not about the easements, but about the project as a whole. He was given a platform to go on at length in opposition to a project which had already been approved which was not appropriate.
10. I'm a believer in the process of citizen review. Town Meeting can be slow and even tiresome at times, but I see no better way of directly involving citizens and encouraging them to become knowledgeable about the way the Town is governed.
11. I think we are moving to a multiple-town-meetings-per-year model, but unlike some I do not disagree with that. Nebraska has a unicameral which used to meet just two months per year until early in the 1970s. As a result, important issues were ignored and by the time they were acted on, it was too late. Moreover, Lexington used to have multiple one-night



sessions in the distant past. Unlike some who decry the extra time they must spend in Battin Hall, I think that dealing with things as they come up is a good idea and the idea of more than one or two Town Meetings per year makes sense to me.

12. My only complaint is that often it seems presenters don't hear or understand questions from the question microphone. As a result, sometimes presenters don't answer the questions. I realize this may be a hard thing to 'fix' without being obtrusive, but it would be nice if the Moderator knew that a question was misunderstood she could offer an definition or explanation.
13. Moderator has mastered the process
14. This may be not what you are looking for but Lexington has wealth of people who are knowledgeable in all areas
15. Perhaps steps should be taken to entice them and be helpful
16. perhaps get them in the boards and commissions as members based on their interests
17. It would be good idea to see how many members of the town whether town members or else are in the boards and commissions as good volunteers for more than two terms!!
18. 3 or so years --
19. community outreach.
20. Similar to appointments in state govt for terms!!
21. Grow new blood who wants to serve and make a difference!!
22. There was commission vision 2020 -- any implementations ideas.
23. Do need to thank town manager and his team, chief of police, public service dept. and those who serve the common needs of citizens apart from all the wonderful volunteer town members and moderator who keeps them on the toes to serve our minuteman
24. Thanks for allowing us to participate and your hard work
25. Question 19 is what I'd like to comment on. I will have to make a decision later this year about whether to run again for a fifth term as a Town Meeting Member. While I enjoy being a Town Meeting Member, the obligation in terms of time and commitment is becoming greater each year because of the Special Town Meetings. Furthermore, I find myself more and more often in disagreement with some of the decisions being made by TM. I am frustrated with the recommendations and decisions being made on parking in the center, additional traffic lights, center sidewalk projects, etc. I believe we're on track to do serious damage to what remains of the central business district. I was in Signature Stationers today and got an earful from the owner of that store who says the new meters on Massachusetts Avenue coupled with the cost of rent and the taxes are literally making it impossible to stay in business. I personally shop in the Center less often than ever before. I bank and shop where parking is free -- Waltham and Arlington.

26. While I realize the gun article was a hot topic, I thought the preparation was a little extreme with the metal detectors and the like.
27. Way too much material is printed - all TM materials should be available online, and if someone wants a printed copy they can do so themselves.
28. The rotation of where we sit each session is a pain - we should sit in the same rows every session instead of moving around.
29. Please have recycle bins clearly marked at exit of the hall. We waste a lot of paper!
30. I am available to help in any way and at any time.
31. Two comments:
  - 1) The question was called for the immense School Capital project when an opposition speaker appeared at the "no" microphone, the first one. I wanted to hear what she had to say, but she was denied the opportunity to speak.
  - 2) WRT amendments: the "no surprise" rule is good---I'd argue almost necessary---but making a reasonable amendment from the floor seems to take too much effort and time. Any way to streamline that would be appreciated from maker's and bystander's perspectives, both.
32. More readable slide presentations.
33. I would very much like to explore any additional options to streamline Town Meeting.
34. The Town boards and committees do an excellent job presenting information and analyzing articles that come before Town Meeting. The quality and thoroughness of their written and oral presentations is remarkable. The moderator is at the "top of her game" and does a fine job in all respects. The sound system is not entirely adequate for the job! The number and length of sessions sometimes "irks" me! Otherwise, Town Meeting definitely fulfills its mission in Lexington.
35. I don't understand how most TMM's seem to vote yes all the time. Do they think about the taxpayers who have elected them to office?
36. It would be helpful if the power point presentation were made available in advance
37. Still some glitches to work out with regard to both the sound system and the voting system, but generally a well-managed TM.
38. OUTSTANDING job in managing the gun article. Other towns could learn from the demeanor explained and expected by all that evening.
39. Please figure out the timeout issue before issuing the next survey.
40. There's still some opacity about what the Town Manager decides or doesn't decide to do, and same with the School Board and Selectmen to some extent. I don't know if the reports to Town Meeting can improve that situation, since some of that opacity falls outside the scope of Town Meeting itself.

41. Stricter control of speakers statements made a the Question microphone so they relate to the question(s) and only include a statement of intent to support or not the matter at hand-- not a longer comments that should be made at the Yes or No makes. (The statement of intent should be constrained just as a Calling the Question is constrained.)
42. One thing that is not clear to me is the difference between TM and Special TM and why we Open/Close, Open/Close, Open/Close, Open/Close, Open/Close, them.
43. Community Preservation Committee should do a better job of explaining how they determine the total amount of money they expect to receive.
44. Can the warrant include a sentence or two in plain English about what each article actually means? Might help people recognize issues of interest/impact. The language is just not accessible to a lot of people.
45. It is very frustrating when the Zoning board does not uphold the decisions of town meeting. 7 foot ceilings in the basement were discussed, but were never considered on upper floors as a way of reducing floor area ratio. It is inexcusable that builders were allowed to exempt square footage from the floor area ratio by keeping upper floor ceiling heights at 7 ft. This was not what Town meeting voted.
46. I thank you all for the excellent work that you do for the Town.
47. Thank you !
48. My memory is not so great that I can accurately remember details from March and April in July. That means that my above answers are rather clouded by the passage of time and are not nearly as valuable as responses that would be made within a few days after each Town Meeting session, especially in regard to what was or was not helpful for the articles that had been voted on and how effective my participation was.
49. I was unhappy with "calling the question" on the gun issue. Moderator had set aside a whole session to hear all opinions. If such an important issue comes again, can the Moderator state, "I will not entertain a motion to cut debate short until (a time certain, such as 10:00 PM)"?
50. There are some simple fixes to the audio issues in Cary hall that would improve the audibility of the sessions. Contact for more details.
51. I am moving out of town and therefore have to resign as a town meeting member. I will miss it.
52. The only suggestion I have is that perhaps the moderate could occasionally - sparingly - let the group know when the debate is getting repetitive and ask the speakers standing at the microphones to limit their remarks accordingly.
53. Investigate and institute any measure that would shorten town meeting. Add articles to consent agenda. Eliminate reading of Article 4 motion. Increase number of voters required to get citizens articles on the warrant.

54. I am delighted to be a part of the TMM. It is an august body and while helping in the governance of the town, I learn from the experience of others on how to engage with the town and volunteer our services. It also shows to my two growing daughters, 9th grader and 7th grader, the importance of community service and engagement in civic responsibilities.
55. Grateful that you Ares seeking opinions and sending multiple requests to ensure the highest possible number of responses.
56. One other thing on a mundane note: lower the mics. If you are tall you can bend down. If you are short there is only so high you can stand.
57. In 2016 meeting annual and otherwise we stayed passed 10 pm, sometimes close or even after 11 pm. This causes discomfort and lack of enough sleep for those who have to get up very early next morning. The length of the sessions should be less like previous sessions.