

TMMA Executive Committee Meeting  
 Minutes for February 8, 2023  
 Virtual Meeting (via Zoom)

Attendees:	Precinct	Attendees:	Precinct
Vineeta Kumar	9 TMMA Chair	Ed Dolan*	3
Betty Gau	8 TMMA Vice-Chair	Andy Friedlich*	5
Bridger McGaw	6 TMMA Treasurer	Sarah Higginbotham*	5
Brielle Meade	8 TMMA Clerk	Innessa Manning*	6
Vicki Blier	9 TMMA List Moderator	Eran Strod*	6
Bob Avallone	8 TMMA Website Manager	Scott Burson*	9
Barbara Katzenberg*	2		

\*denotes Precinct Officers

The Chair Vineeta Kumar called the meeting to order at 7:30pm as quorum was confirmed.

**I. Officer Reports**

Chair's Report—Vineeta Kumar went over the agenda to start the meeting.

Clerk's Report—Brielle Meade submitted the Draft Minutes for the December 14, 2022 meeting and the January 11, 2023 meeting for approval. After three minor edits to the December minutes, the minutes were approved; the January minutes were approved as presented.

Treasurer's Report—Vineeta Kumar reported no changes since the last Treasurer's Report. The current balance is \$2,974.83. The Treasurer's Report (found on page 5 below) was moved, seconded and unanimously accepted.

Website Manager's Report— Bob Avallone posted the latest meeting minutes to the website. He requests that folks let him know if they find anything that needs to be updated on the website as usual.

Email List Moderator's Report—Vicki Blier suggested that "Town Meeting Season" begin shortly. Vicki is going to be out of town from February 15 to March 1; Bob Avallone will act as backup moderator during this time. She will also plan to do a cleanup of the email list membership after the election.

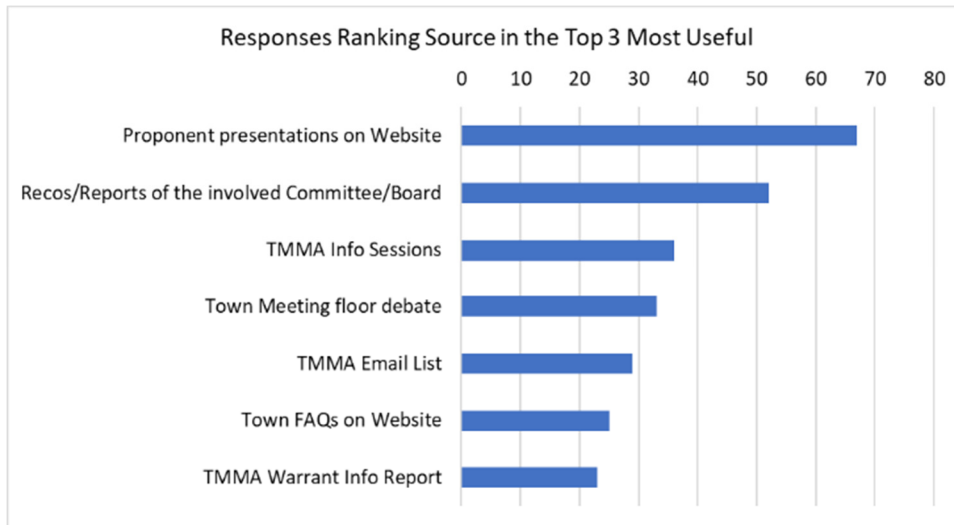
**II. Review Survey Results – Information Sources**

Brielle Meade presented the results from the information sources ranking survey. There were 100 responses (53 percent response rate). The material on the Town website (proponent presentation and slides), Board reports and recommendations, and TMMA Information Sessions were most often ranked in the top three useful sources of information, while the TMMA Warrant Information Report was least likely to be ranked in the top three.

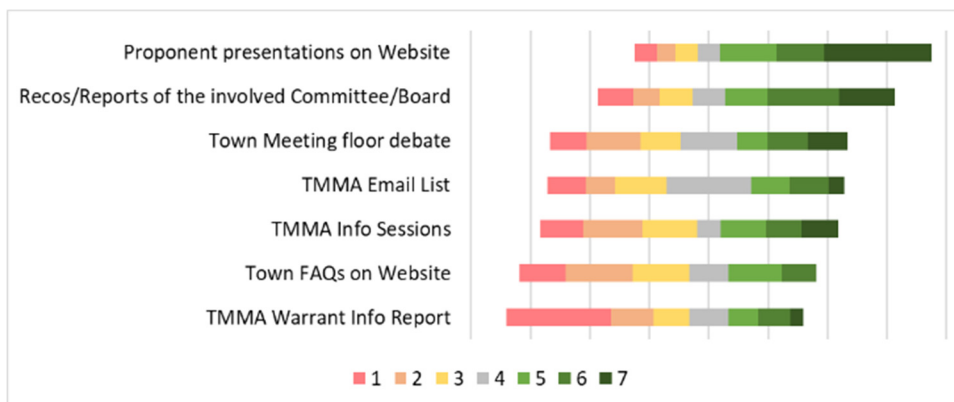
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Percent of Respondents Ranking each Source 1 through 7



There were responses from new and experienced TM members, and ranking results did not vary widely when split by years of experience on TM.

The results support TMMA’s memo and recommendations to the Select Board concerning improvements to the availability of information on the Town website. The goal of the survey was also to inform TMMA about TM member opinions about the usefulness of TMMA Information Sessions and the TMMA Warrant Information Report. The results indicate that TM members value the Information Sessions but do not rely on the Warrant Information Report as much as in the past. A motion was made to discontinue the TMMA Warrant Information Report in its current form going forward; the motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

### III. Review Survey Results – Information/Q&A Session Articles

Brielle Meade presented the results from the survey asking TM members which articles they would recommend including in a TMMA Information/Q&A Session. There were 70 responses (37 percent response rate). Most articles that a high percent of respondents recommend including

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are already tentatively scheduled to be covered in the Information/Q&A Sessions to be held on March 2 and March 15. The group agreed that any article recommended for inclusion by  $\geq 35$  percent of respondents should be prioritized and added to the schedule if possible. The March 15 schedule allows for some wiggle room where items may be added. Vineeta Kumar, Brielle Meade, and Andy Friedlich will connect with the Town to facilitate this.

#### IV. **TMMA Annual Meeting**

The group's preference is to hold the TMMA Annual Town meeting on the same night as one of the Information/Q&A Sessions. Since the first session (March 2) is before the election, the meeting will be held on the night of the session on March 15, 2023. After discussion, Vineeta Kumar proposed precinct meetings be held 6:30pm to 7pm and the annual meeting be held 7pm to 7:15pm. The Information/Q&A Session would begin at 7:15pm. The proposed schedule was accepted, and Andy Friedlich or Vineeta will reach out to the Town with the proposed Information/Q&A Session schedule update.

#### V. **Town Meeting Format Update**

Andy Friedlich updated the meeting with regard to the Home Rule petition to allow virtual or hybrid Town Meeting. The Legislature has not acted on Lexington's petition yet. The legislation allowing virtual Town Meeting expires on April 1; as Annual Town Meeting begins on March 20 (but will extend after April 1), the Town is checking with counsel if that means Town Meeting has to be in person. The assumption at this point is that Town Meeting will be in person. The Town is considering using the virtual voting system in Battin Hall (i.e., TM members would vote on their personal laptop/tablet/phone or a device provided by the Town), with the thought that in the future we would possibly be able to do hybrid Town Meeting.

#### VI. **Black Cat Café**

Andy Friedlich reiterated the history of the Black Cat Café and his desire to continue operation. Andy spoke with an employee of Peet's who said she would be interested in working the Café. Minimum wage is \$15 per hour and operating hours would be approximately 7pm to 11pm. Along with food and supply costs, Andy would like to come up with a draft budget to run the Café. Others in the group raised concerns about hiring staff and would prefer it be a less formal endeavor. The group agreed a more casual, self-service style Black Cat Café that would not require paid or volunteer staff should be arranged. A motion was made to budget up to \$500 for supplies to sustain a self-serving Black Cat Café. The motion was seconded and approved.

#### VII. **Bus Tours**

The group agreed that a bus tour would be useful for Annual Town Meeting. Some suggested possible stops include Munroe Center for the Arts and the East Lexington Fire Station. Brielle Meade, Vineeta Kumar, and Betty Gau will come up with a proposal for stops and time and date for a tour and report back to the group over email.

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## VIII. **TMMA Information Sharing with the Select Board**

Bridger McGaw shared an update on the memo to the Select Board about improvements to information sharing. The memo is part of the meeting package and will be on the Select Board agenda for February 13. He also created two slides to go over during the meeting. Vicki Blier will also attend the meeting. The goal is to present a short summary and then allow the Select Board time to discuss the memo together.

## IX. **TMMA Dues for 2023**

Bridger McGaw proposed we return membership dues to ten dollars. TMMA is now hosting annual or semi-annual TMMA Connect! events; has proposed to reopen the Black Cat Café; and will be bringing back bus tours, in addition to the usual expenditures. The motion was moved, seconded, and approved.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:35pm. Next Meeting will be on May 10, 2023 at 7:30 PM conducted online via Zoom or in the Estabrook Room at Cary Memorial Building.

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<b>TMMA</b>			
<b>Treasurer's Report</b>			
<b>8-February-23</b>			
<b>Cash Balance - beginning (12/12/2022)</b>			<b>\$3,124.83</b>
Income			
	TMMA dues (PayPal)		\$0
	TMMA dues (cash/check)		\$0
<b>Total Income</b>			<b>\$0</b>
Expenses			
	Room rental DEI event (to Vicki Blier)		\$150.00
<b>Total Expenses</b>			<b>\$150.00</b>
<b>Income less expenses</b>			<b>(\$150.00)</b>
<b>Cash Balance - ending (12/12/2022)</b>			<b>\$2,974.83</b>

**Treasurer's Note: No income was received between December and February meetings.**