

# **Town Meeting Participation Issues: Brainstorming Session Categorized**

## **10/5/2021 ATM Committee Meeting: Updated 1/24/2022**

### **Logistics**

- **Not enough room to hold people (Logistics)**
- **Uncomfortable – seating, heat (Logistics)**
- **People have issues physically attending the meeting (Logistics)**
- **Lack of Wi-Fi (Logistics)**
- **Seasonal weather impacts location (Logistics)**
- **Inadequate parking (Logistics)**
- **Difficult if you have mobility issues: parking, long walk (Logistics)**
- **Options for seniors – being uncomfortable, off site options (Logistics)**
- **Difficult with hearing impairment (Logistics)**

### **Transportation**

- **No public transportation (Transportation)**

### **Child Care**

- **Kids too young to leave at home (Child Care)**

### **Education**

- **Too long (Education)**
- **Don't know why I should come (Education)**
- **General lack of knowledge about process, how it works (Education)**
- **People don't know why to come to TM (Education)**
- **Don't know if they are entitled to vote (Education)**
- **Information that is easy to understand (Education)**
- **Think my vote doesn't count (Education)**
- **Don't have a stake in the community (Education)**

- Voting process takes too long (Education)
- Process is confusing (Education)
- Glossary of terms (Education)
- Lack of prior knowledge, history of bigger conversations (Education)
- TM votes are not private (Education)
- Intimidated (Education)

## Communications/Publicity

- Knowing what point the meeting is at if you are not there (Comm.)
- Not enough publicity, more fliers all over town (Comm.)
- Lack of knowing what time article is coming up (Comm.)
- Not enough notice (Comm.)
- Letting new residents know, outreach (Comm.)
- Inability to access information about meeting in advance (Comm.)
- Information is too dry (Comm.)
- Follow up after the meeting, the impact (Comm.)

## Trust

- Voters think everything is decided in advance (Education/Trust)
- Lack of trust (Education/Trust)
- Doubt in the process (Education/Trust)

## General

- Lack of attendance (General)
- Conflicts with schedules (General)
- Conflict with schedules, weekends/weekday availability (General)
- People are busy (General)

## Other

- Don't know anyone there (Other)
- Time limit on comments (Other)
- Unpredictability of length of the meeting (Other)
- Some people feel too much ownership over TM and dominate the mic, don't make "new" people feel welcome (Other)
- If you can't attend, you can't vote – give up voting privilege if you can't attend (Other)
- Need more Representation from different groups – seniors, new comers, parents...(Other)
- If you can't attend, you can't vote – give up voting privilege if you can't attend (Other)