

David Strong

Thank you for the two open sessions to provide public feedback to the questions posed about future governance.

I was unable to participate in Saturday's forum and will try to attend Tuesday. In the event I am unable to participate directly, I would like to indicate that I feel it's the time to move on from Town Meeting format. I have attended 5-10 town meetings in the 15 years I have lived in Andover. Too often, I see disgruntled citizens who are there to be heard and seen to grind a particular axe. Too rarely, I see an informed citizen questioning the validity of a particular expenditure or town priority.

and the format of open town meeting to decide such important matters excludes far too many town citizens. It's significantly more difficult for so many town citizens, including those who work evenings and those without reliable childcare for young children.

I strongly encourage the town to consider other forms of representative governance. I wish I were more informed of alternatives myself, but I know that Town meeting does not work for a town of 30+k citizens.

David Strong

64 Burnham Road