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Input for Town Governance Study

Intellectually, I am a supporter of Andover's Town Meeting system of governance.

Practically, however, I get extremely frustrated by the actual experience of Town Meeting as currently implemented. Specifically, here are my observations/complaints/suggestions:

1- The number of articles annually is too long necessitating two or three evenings consecutively. It isn't reasonable to expect that folks can attend three nights in a row and gives short shrift to the articles at the end, no matter how well "organized". We might need two Town Meetings a year.

2- The process of doing manual standing vote counts is lengthy and frustrating, never mind that it is often "called" by those in the minority who are angry the vote didn't go their way. We need a clearer, faster way to perform the actual counts.

3- Very often, a handful of people do most of the talking at the meeting, and do so for many articles. Possibly a limit of the number of times an individual person could talk (by minutes, or by number of articles) should be enacted.

4- Unless remote participation is possible, childcare services should be provided all evenings and for the duration.

