

Kevin Coffey

2/22/2021

1 Stafford Lane

Andover, MA

Questions for February 22, 2021 Meeting

The agenda published for your February 22, 2021 meeting invites public questions or comments and I wish to submit the following for your consideration and response.

1. Criteria and weighting. As you deliberate form of government options, will you please make explicit Committee members' criteria for judging the options and weighting of the various criteria?
2. Form of government options. The agenda suggests that options remaining under consideration have been narrowed to two, Open Town Meeting with reforms and Council-Manager. Without making clear which reforms to open town meeting are both realistically achievable and being seriously considered, how can this option be judged? As an example, some have suggested remote participation as a reform to be considered even while the best current wisdom suggests that would never be permitted by the state legislature. Status quo open town meeting is a known structure which can (and should) be compared to council-manager or other options but including a "with reforms" open town meeting option without tight definition of reforms assumed to be made seems elusive and imaginary rather than purposeful and decisive. In conducting deliberations, will you please make explicit the reforms that, at least for the purpose of your deliberations, you are assuming will be made?

To any Committee member or resident wishing to conveniently continue discussion of Andover town governance, with opportunity to speak, question, and productively debate, I repeat my offer to join a private Google Group established for exactly this purpose. Only an email address is necessary, and level of participation is entirely a personal choice. For more information, please feel free to contact me via kevin@andovergovernance.org

or (978) 704-1566.

Regards,

Kevin Coffey

1 Stafford Lane

kevin@andovergovernance.com

(978) 704-1566

The Committee May Contact Me to Discuss my Input