

Precinct 3 Town Meeting Member

7 for 3 years

Question for Town Meeting Member candidates:

The Town Meeting Members Association (TMMA) holds three information session nights prior to the beginning of Town Meeting. Attendance at these TMMA information sessions is fairly low. What do you think could be done to encourage more Town Meeting Members to attend information sessions?

Incumbents

Dan H. Fenn, Jr.

E-mail Address: fenddh@aol.com

Phone Number: 781-863-5238

Community Activities: Former Capital Expenditures Committee, School Committee, Selectman, Town Meeting Member over 50 years, Historical Society President, White Tricorn and Cane awards, founding president of LEF, etc.

Question

A message from the TMMA Board describing the agenda and encouraging attendance. Testimonials from Town Meeting Members attesting to the value of these sessions. More publicity in the Minute Man about them. Taking attendance and publicizing the list.

Steven P. Heinrich

E-mail address: sheinrich@rcn.com

Phone number: (617) 780-5115

Community Activities: Town Meeting member from precinct 3 for 15 years
Trustee of Potter Pond Condominium Association
President of the South Lexington Civic Association

Question:

I believe that when someone runs for and is elected to Town Meeting, he or she has a responsibility to attend information sessions and the bus tour as well as each session of town meeting unless there is a very good reason preventing them from attending. In the case of the TMMA information sessions, they are useful for informing members about each article. I feel town meeting members that do not attend the meetings and show up at town meeting asking questions that have already been brought up and answered at the information sessions do everyone a disservice. To correct this, I recommend that the information sessions be made mandatory for town meeting members. Attendance records for these sessions for every town meeting member should appear on the web site for each town meeting member. The record

should reflect the attendance record for information sessions, the bus tour, attendance record at town meeting sessions, in addition to how the member voted at the on each warrant article.

Vineeta Kumar
Henry S. Lau
Stanley Yap

New Candidates

Cynthia E. Arens

E-mail address: cindyaren@hotmail.com

Phone number: 781-354-3806

Community Activities:

LPS Green Teams core member (www.LexingtonGreenTeams.org);

Sustainable Lexington Committee

Part of team that passed Warrant Articles 30 and 31 in 2019

ARRP Tax Aide

Bowman PTA Exec Board

Clarke PTO Exec Board

LHS PTO member

Big Sister

Question:

Survey TMMs beforehand to ask what they want covered. Perhaps there are items that are easier covered online, so as not to take more time.

Rena Maliszewski

E-mail address: renamal@rcn.com

Phone number: 617-851-2525

Community Activities:

- Director, SLCA (South Lexington Civic Association)

- Director, FOLMADS (Friends of Lexington Music, Art and Drama Students)

- Volunteer (various organizations including MLK Day of Service, Bowman Elementary School, Clarke Middle School, Methodist Weekday School, LexRAP, Neighbor Brigade)

Question

Response: I would propose a few ideas to encourage more TMM to attend information sessions:

1. A buddy system. Each town meeting member is assigned a TMM “buddy” or “partner” and they alternate attending the information sessions. The “buddy” that attends is

responsible for taking notes and sharing session talk points/discussion with the “buddy” that didn't attend. They alternate roles at each meeting. However, if the both parties are interested in attending any/all of the meetings, that is preferred. Often when a person has a role (in this case communicating to their buddy/partner, they are more likely to follow through/be accountable.

2. Refreshments - food is often a way to bring people to a meeting
3. Door prize: Give away (3) \$10 Dunkin Donuts gift cards at each info session by drawing the names of two TMM in attendance out of a box (the person must be there to claim the gift card and if they are not, another name is drawn). We have so many Dunkin Donuts franchises in Lexington, you may be able to get the gift cards at no cost.
4. Shorten the duration of the info sessions or reduce the number of meetings from 3 to 2 so that it is a longer session but fewer number of sessions each year.

Joshua Apgar