

Precinct 9 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

Alice J. Adler

Victoria C. Buckley

Jeanne P. Canale

E-mail address: j.canale@rcn.com

Phone number: 781-861-0287

Community Activities: TMMA former Chair, *Lexington Conservation Steward, Sidewalk Committee former member, *South Lexington Civic Association, Director, TMMA, former Precinct Chair, Executive Board, Vice Chair. Communications Advisory Committee former chair, Lexington Public Schools, former substitute teacher, *Lexington League of Women Voters, Board of Directors

Question

The goal should be how do we inform Town Meeting Members, residents and people in general about what is coming before Town Meeting? With busy lives, Town Meeting Members, often find it difficult to physically be at each Information Session. Since Information Sessions are cablecast live, TMMA should provide Town Meeting Members unable to attend Information Sessions, the ability to submit their questions on-line in real-time. An informed town is in everyone's interest. In the end, nobody benefits from an uninformed voter. We need to inform the public by:

1. Enhancing the TMMA web page, by timely including an electronic copy of Information book and link to TMMA e-mail discussion.
2. Write periodic articles in Minuteman paper and Colonial Times Magazine and on TMMA web page about the goings on Town Meeting and invite residents to participate.
3. Establish an on-going interactive web page for residents to communicate concerns issues and comments on Town Meeting issues.

Pamela Kuman Joshi

Wendy Manz

Hank Manz

Lisah S. Rhodes

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Phone number 781-307-3116

Community Activities Recreation Committee Vice-Chair, Community Preservation Committee, Community Endowment of Lexington board member, League of Women Voters, Lexington

Question

I believe one of the reasons information session in-person attendance is low is because many members are able to watch either on-line or on their television, thanks to LexMedia. To make the meetings more interactive, TMMA could consider allowing members to email questions ahead of time giving proponents the opportunity to prepare additional information.

New Candidate

Suzanne Lau

E-mail address: suzanne_lau_65@yahoo.com

Phone number: 781-863-2725

Community Activities:

As a parent of three children in Lexington schools for over 10 years, I have performed a variety of volunteer roles at all school levels. Most recently, I was on the LHS School Council as a Parent Representative for 6 years (the last 5 years as Co-chair) and currently as a community member. I organized and moderated the LHS Parent Discussion group for many years until my youngest graduated in 2019. This group meets weekly for either parent-run meetings or a monthly meeting with the LHS Associate principal and has been a valuable resource for many parents navigating LHS over the years. I am also the Lexington United Soccer Club coaching equipment manager (for the last 6 years), and ensure that the volunteer team coaches have the equipment they need for team practices and games each season.

Question:

In order to encourage more Town Meeting Members to attend information sessions, it would be important to understand:

- reasons why members do not attend the sessions, and
- for members who do attend, what they find useful about the sessions.

I would suggest sending a survey to Town Meeting members with the goal of understanding why there is low attendance at these information sessions and use the responses to propose solutions.

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