

A decorative graphic on the left side of the slide, consisting of a network of white lines and circles on a blue gradient background. The lines are vertical and horizontal, with some diagonal branches, and the circles are of varying sizes, resembling a circuit board or a neural network.

TOWN MEETING TOPICS

ADVISORY BOARD EDUCATIONAL FORUM

TOWN MEETING

- Open vs. Representative
- Annual vs. Special

OPEN TOWN MEETING

- Town Meeting is open to all voters
- Any registered voter may attend
- Any registered voter may speak for or against an article
- Any registered voter may vote.

REPRESENTATIVE TOWN MEETING

- Town Meeting Members are elected to represent the voters.
- This is done by precinct.
- Otherwise, Town Meeting is run similarly to Open Town Meeting.
- Only Town Meeting Members may speak and voted for or against an article
- Not a typical model for towns our size.

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

- All Municipalities must have an Annual Town Meeting
- Here the Budget is presented and acted upon by Town Meeting.
- Other articles may be offered by the Town or by Citizens' Petition.
- Typical articles include housekeeping articles allowing Town Departments to function or enter into contracts, Authorize bonding, or change Town By-Laws.

SPECIAL TOWN MEETING

- Any Town Meeting other than Annual Town Meeting.
- Called by the Board of Selectman or by citizen's petition.
- We see a STM most years that run at the same time with Annual Town Meeting to take up articles that deal with previous Town Meeting actions
- Requires 200 signatures or 20% of registered Voters, whichever is fewer.
- Must be held 45 day from when the STM was petitioned.



ROLES OF TOWN MEETING

- Moderator
 - Advisory Board
 - Board of Selectmen
 - Town Manager
 - Town Counsel
 - Town Clerk
 - Tellers
 - Proponents
 - Citizens
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MOTIONS AND PROCEDURES

- Town Meeting Time
 - Governs Town Meetings
- Motions
 - Many types
- Resolutions
 - Non binding actions
- Points of Order, Question of Privilege

MOTIONS

- In 1980, we enacted a by-law providing, that the order of considering articles, except for the general budget articles, shall be determined by lottery.
- The moderator may declare certain articles, due to legal requirements, must be considered before or after other articles are considered.
- Motions must be within the scope of the article in the Warrant facsimile.
- After a motion has been made, substitute motions and amendments may be offered, but no more than two (2) substitute motions or amendments may be before the meeting at any given time. Any substitute motion or amendment must also be within the scope of the article

MOTIONS

- Affirmative
 - Detailed or Brief
- Negative (No Action)
- Reconsideration
- Refer to a Study Committee

OFTEN USED PROCEDURES

- **Call for the Question:** Is a motion to terminate debate. It requires a two-thirds vote and is not debatable.
- **Voting by Secret Ballot:** Shall occur when the Advisory Board so recommends in writing, or when 15 voters so request, or when required by statute or town by-law.
- **Questioning the Vote:** When seven (7) voters question the moderator's calling of voice vote, a standing vote will be taken.
- **Motion to Reconsider:** Must be made on the same night that vote to be reconsidered was taken; two-thirds required; a vote once reconsidered cannot be further reconsidered.

DEBATE

- Limits to time: Typically, the Moderator will begin Town Meeting asking for a limit to debate.
 - 10 minutes for first time comments, 5 minutes for all subsequent comments.
- Always identify yourself with home address
 - E.g. David Clinton, 55 Gosnold Street
- Never Speak directly to another member. All direction of speech is through the moderator
- No Slander

VOTING

- Voice Vote
 - Nays are generally louder than Yeas.
- Show of Hands (or cards)
- Standing
- Roll Call (not usual)
- Ballot

Most Votes are simple majority (50% +1) – Some Require Two-Thirds (zoning, bonding, others required by law or statute)



QUESTIONS

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