

Annual Town Meeting Workshop

**Wednesday, May 13, 2009
7:00 PM**

Each year, Moderator Joe Harrington and Town Clerk Nancy Yendriga make themselves available for a give-and-take discussion of the procedures related to our Westborough town meetings. The event is sponsored by the Newcomers' Club, and the audience is typically made up of people who are quite new to the process, although some long-time residents of the town have been known to attend, and all are welcome.

Town meeting may be unfamiliar to those from outside New England, and a little preparation in advance can save some embarrassment, and make a world of difference in the time it takes to get up the learning curve and start feeling comfortable at town meeting. Even if you are familiar with town meeting practices elsewhere, it can be worth attending, as practices vary widely from town to town even within Massachusetts.

It is called a workshop because it is an informal discussion that focuses on the participants' particular needs. The discussion does focus on procedure rather than the substance of the issues at the next town meeting. Specific issues are dealt with in numerous posted public hearings and meetings prior to any town meeting. The issues in the impending annual town meeting may be cited in terms of examples, but there is no detailed discussion or question-and-answer in this area.

Typically the meeting convenes in the downstairs meeting room at the Public Library, on a mid-week night a few days prior to the start of the annual town meeting.

The next workshop is scheduled for 7 PM on Wednesday, May 13, 2009.