

The Town Meeting Procedures Committee

Report – April 22, 2019

The Town Meeting Procedures Committee met on March 4, 2019, in order to discuss the Articles in the Warrant that directly affect Town Meeting and its procedures:

ARTICLE 27 BYLAW AMENDMENT/TIME LIMITS FOR TOWN MEETING SPEAKERS: which seeks to amend Title I, Article 1, Section 7(C), of the Town Bylaws (“Time Limits”) to change maximum speaking time for Town Meeting debate. (Inserted at the request of Michael Jacoby Brown and 10 registered voters)

Mr. Jacoby Brown appeared to discuss his Article.

The Committee believed that imposing further time limit upon speakers would have no discernable affect upon the length of Time Meeting and may actually stifle valuable debate. The Committee believes that since the introduction of the electronic timer that most speakers were more cognizant of their time usage and did not approach the 7-minute limit and those that do, in general have a valid presentation or point to make. All presenters, including all Town Committees and Boards as well as Town Meeting Members giving a presentation should not be further limited as that is the business for which they were elected and for which we are here. The Committee was also of the opinion that the current 7-minute limitation is adequate as the time limits have already been reduced from 15 minutes to 10 minutes to 7 minutes for the first trip to the microphone.

The Committee Voted against supporting Articles 27 and **recommends a Vote of NO ACTION.**

The Town Meeting Procedures Committee:

John D. Leone, Moderator
James O’Conor, Assistant Moderator
John L. Worden III
Eric Helmuth
Adam Auster, absent