

Dilly Deblase

From: Jennifer Christy <townclerk@chilmarkma.gov>
Sent: Friday, April 19, 2024 8:22 AM
To: Tim Carroll
Cc: Dilly Deblase
Subject: FW: Just a thought to pass on to the folks running Town meetings

From: ANNE COOK <acook77@msn.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 18, 2024 4:33 PM
To: Jennifer Christy <townclerk@chilmarkma.gov>
Subject: Just a thought to pass on to the folks running Town meetings

Hi, Jen: I was talking with my dad about this the other day and I don't know if changes have been made since I am not a Chilmark voter at this time. But I do recall vividly how things were structured at the Town meeting years ago, when I was a voter there, and the endless minor docket items were dealt with ahead of the issues that got a huge turnout - including younger voters with children who could not stay up until 11:30 p.m., not to mention my parents, who had to leave before the final vote on the causeway situation.

Have the "Town Fathers" now with a "Town Mother" included addressed the need to have the most important issues addressed FIRST - early in the evening - so that more voters can weigh in on the most impactful agenda items, and save the more admin-boilerplate issues for later in the meeting?

The reason I ask is that it's totally unfair for the usual suspects who participate no matter what to criticize young voters and families who CAN'T be expected to hang in there at four- or five-hour meetings that seem structured to intentionally exclude their voices due to a refusal to put the most engaging warrant items FIRST.

I hope things have changed. I see a lot of chit-chat in the Comments sections of local news articles related to issues of importance, and there is a constant criticism of more people not being involved. I am concerned about baked-in generational prejudice, and among other things, there is certainly enough IT tech for the Town of Chilmark (and other towns) to implement online voting for those routine warrant items and save the Town meeting for debate and engagement among voters.

Feel free to share this with the Board of Selectpersons, and I ask that my communication be considered free of personal attitudes about myself. It's an unpalatable exercise to speak up about anything in a small pond; so hopefully, the "authorities" can keep that in mind and just focus on the message vs the messenger.

Regards, Annie Cook