

**TOWN MEETING STUDY COMMITTEE
SPLIT SESSIONS SUB-COMMITTEE - HYBRID
MEETING MINUTES - FINAL**

Monday, January 6, 2025, 6:00 pm

Attendance: Andy Wang, Jennie Morris

The Split Session Sub-Committee of the Town Meeting Study Committee (TMSC) met from 6:00PM - 7:15PM on Jan 6th at the 2nd Floor Conference Room at Town Hall as a hybrid meeting. There were no members of the public that joined via zoom or in person.

We discussed if we were able to find any other towns in MA that have tried split sessions, neither of us found any in our searches. There are provisions for this in NH, and we may expand our research to those areas as well.

We discussed possible options for how a split session could be implemented, in a single day or over two days. We discussed various pros and cons and consequences of each scenario and took the action to write up a first draft of these pros and cons and consequences to present to the larger TMSC for feedback.

We discussed whether a by-law change would be necessary to implement a split session. With review of the current by-law, it appears as if having a split session in a single day would not require a change to the by-law, but a multi-day session may. We believe that it could be useful to propose a change in the by-law, with the assistance of Town Council, that would allow the Town flexibility down the road, but also allow the flexibility to use any of the options (i.e. single session, split session in a day, split session in multiple days).

The questions that were brought up, that we determined would be best answered by (a) the Select Board, (b) having the Town Moderator inquire with the Moderators' Association (if possible) or (c) Town Council, are outlined below, and will be brought up at the next full session of the TMSC.

- Ask Sarah to ask the Moderators Association if there are other towns that have tried a split session and if there was a POC that we could talk with.
- Ask Selects if they would sponsor a by-law change that would allow us the flexibility to try a split session in the future. **Ask Town Council to draft the wording for flexibility.**
- Ask council for a determination if in-person attendance is required for deliberative session or if it is only required for voting (e.g. can a person ask a question over zoom)

Meeting Adjourned at 7:15PM