

Minutes of Moderator's Committee on Virtual Town Meeting  
April 6, 2020, 7:30pm  
Meeting held over WebEx

**Members Attending:** Dennis Doughty, Ben Franco, Mark Levy, Karim Martin, Tracy Schroeder, Mike Sandman, Sandy Gadsby

**Members of the Public:** Fred Levitan, Scott Ananian, David-Marc Goldstein, Steve Kanes, Rebecca Stone, Amy Hummel, Claire Stampfer, Harry Friedman, Chuck Swartz, Neil Wishinsky, Ernie Frey, John Doggett, and others who signed in anonymously or cryptically.

Note: This meeting was scheduled for the WebEx platform to provide a basis for comparison with the previous meeting held over Zoom. The first 20 minutes was spent trying to get Moderator Gadsby into the meeting as a full participant. This goal was never achieved, and the Moderator participated by phone only, and the meeting started in earnest around 7:50pm.

### **Discussion**

Mike Sandman started the discussion by addressing the "delicate question," namely how we can consider using WebEx as the platform given the poor experience of the first 20 minutes.

The committee was informed that this was not a true "apples to apples" comparison because the previous meeting had been held as a Zoom meeting, not a large-scale "webinar" designed to support hundreds of participants. The committee agreed to hold the next meeting as a Zoom webinar or "large meeting".

The committee ran various experiments, including taking a test vote. Voting worked fairly well; however non-panelists were able to vote. Were we to select WebEx this issue would have to be addressed.

The committee agreed to evaluate Zoom's voting capabilities at the next meeting (scheduled for 16 April 2020) and to determine how non-TMMs would be restricted from voting but still able to watch the discussion and in some cases speak or present.

Moderator Gadsby reiterated his principle that this Town Meeting is going to be a compromise. "One of the compromises I am perfectly willing to make is to limit 'active' participants to those TMMs and non-TMMs who have signed up to speak."

The committee reviewed and approved a questionnaire to be sent out to all Town Meeting members to help assess their level of technical savvy and connectivity (bandwidth). The committee agreed that Moderator Gadsby should send out the questionnaire.

### **Public Comment**

The committee heard from several members of the public. There were many complaints about WebEx and, for people who had experience with both platforms, universal support for Zoom.

Many members of the public urged extensive training for TMMs and other participants prior to Town Meeting.

The next meeting was scheduled for April 16 at 7:30pm, over Zoom.

The meeting adjourned at 9pm.