

Changes for 2021 Town Meeting

Notice issued in January 2021 Source: Town Office

Town Clerk's Office 896-6055

Hours: 9am to 12 noon, 1pm to 4:30pm, Monday through Thursday

Wardsboro's 2021 Town Meeting will likely not be the usual in-person event in town hall on March 2. Given the surging numbers of COVID-19 cases and the probable progress of vaccinations taking until midyear, it would not be possible to safely conduct Town Meeting in the standard mode.

The state has passed Act 162, enabling towns to conduct town meeting voting via Australian Ballot – that is ON PAPER. If this option were to be employed, the March 2 in-person Town Meeting would be replaced by a voting day in town hall, similar to 2020's Primary and General elections. A teleconference information session would be conducted up to 10 days prior to the March 2 voting.

There may be other options. From the Secretary of State's Director of Elections and Campaign Finance communication to Vermont Town Clerks:

“The legislature has been meeting preliminarily late this fall to discuss further action they may be able to take regarding the annual meeting. They are aware that a bill would have to be passed very quickly and are putting the pieces in place to do so ... but there is not a guarantee these will happen:

- Permitting a municipality to postpone the annual meeting until later in the year when it can be held under hopefully safer circumstances.
- Permitting a municipality to mail ballots to all active registered voters.
- Granting the Secretary of State the same authority that was granted last year to authorize alternative procedures for local elections in 2021. This would allow reauthorizing procedures such as drive-thru polling places.”

On the surface, delaying Wardsboro's Town Meeting appears to be preferable, but the town will be prepared for Australian Ballot voting if that ends up to be the best option available. Watch for further information in mid-January as the work of the legislature proceeds.