Hull Fall Forum

Women In Nantasket

November 5, 2017
Who is WIN?

- Mary Ann Beakes
- Pam Coffman
- Robin Coyne Hull
- Liz Kay
- Susan Mann
- Jennifer McGill
- Kim McNeil-Downs
- Robin Mahoney
- Tobe Sachs
- Susan Sloane
- Trish Waddleton-Hardy
- Sinead Whelan
Thank You

• Ann Goldman
• Patti Abbate
• Michael Domina
• The Red Parrot for helping support this event.
Our Plan for Today

• Share WIN’s core areas of focus
• Break into small groups
• Talk about these issues
• Come back together/Share Insights
• Every group will have participant-facilitator report back
• Time for conversation
• Next steps
WIN’s Focus: Facilitate viable and positive change for our community

- Inclusive Leadership
- Civic Engagement
- Fiscal Responsibility
Why We’re Here?

1. Move the town in a positive direction
   - Improve communication on all levels

2. Use facts and data to make informed decisions
   - To provide information to our fellow citizens to empower informed decisions

3. We want to listen to ideas and facilitate conversations
Why Now?
Hull Is On The Cusp

• Seeing more and more grant money
• $$’s coming to our town
• More and more committees forming
• Community Preservation Action
Rules of Engagement

• Safe place for people to express their dreams for Hull

• We want to honor everyone’s opinion

• We’re here to be respectful – we want to build on what we already have. We are solution focused

• Tell us your passions – tell us what’s important to you in our areas of interest

• We’re not aiming to resolve issues here – we’re looking to better understand your concerns and ideas and help you turn them into action plans leading to solutions

• We want everyone to leave knowing how to be in touch with us and how you can help
WIN’s Focus

WIN

Inclusive Leadership

Civic Engagement

Fiscal Responsibility
Inclusive Leadership

• Term Limits
• Representative Town Meeting
Term Limits

- We do have term limits for our President? Should we consider them for State/Federal offices?
- Why should Hull consider term limits?
- Did you know that a few Massachusetts municipalities have term limits?
  - Four towns with term limits for (3) CC/BOS and school committee
- What are good timeframes for term limits?
## Term Limits

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term Limit Pros</th>
<th>Term Limit Cons</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• New, different and fresh perspectives</td>
<td>• Lack of Experience</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Openings for people with different skills/expertise</td>
<td>• Lack of pipeline of New People</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• No awkwardness when a citizen steps forward to make a run that might involve unseating someone</td>
<td>• Stagnant Ideas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Provide other community members with new skills and experience</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Representative Town Meeting vs Open Town Meeting

- To consider a Rep type of TM you must have XX residents
- Locations where representative town meeting or "limited town meeting” is instituted: Milton, Plymouth, Lexington, MA and Greenwich, CT, NH, VT
- Representative town meetings function largely the same as open town meetings except not all registered voters can participate or vote
- The elected town meeting members are voted in by precinct to represent them
# Cons & Pros To Rep. Town Meeting

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Open TM Pro’s</th>
<th>Open TM Con’s</th>
<th>Rep TM Pro’s</th>
<th>Rep TM Con’s</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>You vote</td>
<td>All voters do not attend and vote on all issues</td>
<td>Rep attends all TM</td>
<td>All voters do not vote at TM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Voters can participate at TM</td>
<td>Some people are heard TM</td>
<td>Rep votes on all issues at TM</td>
<td>All voters can not voice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sometimes small % of voters are voting</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Civic Engagement

- What IS Civic Engagement?
- Voter Participation
- Town Communications
- Town Meeting
What is Civic Engagement?

- Increasing voter participation for every election
- Improving town communications and ensuring new and existing residents are more informed about town government and how they can be involved
- Considering whether changing the day of the week for town meeting could improve participation
Voter Participation

• Early voting vs. voting by absentee ballot
• Early voting November 2016 in Massachusetts: more than 1 million ballots cast, approximately 22% of all ballots
• Hull cast 9,075 ballots, 2,474 in early voting: 27.26%
• Should we consider increasing access to early voting ballots on either the local or statewide level for each and every election? Or re-examine the criteria for absentee ballots?
Town Communications

How can our town and/or our fellow citizens improve the communications to better publicize?:

- Upcoming meetings of our town’s boards and committees
- Agendas for those meetings
- Vacancies on boards and committees
Town Meeting

According to a study from the Massachusetts Municipal Association in 2013 there were 39 communities holding annual town meetings on Saturdays – 13.2%. EXAMPLES:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Town</th>
<th>Population</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wilmington</td>
<td>22,325</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wayland*</td>
<td>12,994</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lunenberg</td>
<td>10,086</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Hull – 1st Monday in May</strong></td>
<td><strong>10,293</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hamilton</td>
<td>7,764</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rockport</td>
<td>6,952</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* held on Sunday
Fiscal Responsibility

- School Trend Analytics
- Automatic Prop 2%
As student population* has declined less space is needed.

PK – 5: Building Capacity 785

-22%

6, 7, 8: Building Capacity 385

-28%

9, 10, 11, 12: Building Capacity 405

-25%

*excludes counts of students attending Collaborative
Projected Enrollment 2017 – 2023
(Assumes PK* class size remained unchanged YOY and no adds/attrition in later grades)

-11%
# Hull Total Expenditures Up and Enrollment Trend Down

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Expense $(M's)</td>
<td>$18.0</td>
<td>$16.7</td>
<td>$17.4</td>
<td>$17.7</td>
<td>$17.8</td>
<td>$18.7</td>
<td>$19.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expenditure Per Student</td>
<td>$14,955</td>
<td>$14,387</td>
<td>$15,903</td>
<td>$16,549</td>
<td>$16,797</td>
<td>$18,038</td>
<td>$19,501</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>YOY % Per Student $ Change</td>
<td>-4%</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Graph

- **Enrollment**: 1202, 1164, 1095, 1067, 1061, 1034, 985
- **Expenditure Per Student**: $14,955, $14,387, $15,903, $16,549, $16,797, $18,038, $19,501
- **Linear (Enrollment)**: Dotted line indicating enrollment trend.
Automatic Prop 2.5%

- MA introduced Prop 2.5% in 1982
- Hull has had automatic 2.5% since 2002
- People generally move to Hull as taxes are lower
- The automatic 2.5% is causing Hull to get closer to the higher tax towns such as Hingham and Cohasset
- Many long-time Hull citizens are being taxed out of their homes
- The town hasn’t seen major benefits from the continuous tax increases
- Some towns have not increased taxes and held their departments to balance budgets year over year
ONE WORD ROUND
ROBIN

What draws you to this town?
What keeps you here?
BREAK OUT SESSIONS
What Did We Hear?
Closing Remarks

Patricia Abbate
WIN’s Focus: Facilitate viable and positive change for our community

- Inclusive Leadership
- Civic Engagement
- Fiscal Responsibility
Connect with WIN

• We’re on Facebook:
  https://www.facebook.com/WomenInNantasket/?ref=bookmarks

• Email address:
  womeninnantasket@gmail.com

We value your feedback!
Thank you