

Thoughts on Town Council meetings

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Dear Mayor and Council members,

I am writing to request that the process for approving Town Council (TC) meeting minutes be improved as soon as possible. Having sat through quite a few TC meetings over the last year (and before), I can attest that the needless, seemingly endless discussion/bickering/word-smithing of meeting minutes is a huge turn-off. When Town residents attend the TC meetings, it is typically because they are interested in hearing about a specific topic; however, at most of the TC meetings I have attended, sometimes an hour or even more at the beginning can be taken up with the prior meeting minutes discussion. I have also spoken to newer Town residents who have been quite put off by this and likely will not involve themselves in Town business. Meeting minutes should be distributed to the TC members in advance of the upcoming meeting (as I believe they are) and then edits proposed via a shared document in advance; at the actual meeting, no more than 15 minutes should be taken up with proposing substantive changes. I feel that some of this bickering about minutes is being done publicly for some sort of political grandstanding.

Please consider limiting discussion of meeting minutes to no more than 15 minutes. Thank you for your ongoing work as dedicated volunteers.

Best,

Liz Everhart

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