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and can/has run well past midnight.

- The time between the Deliberative Session and Voting Day allows citizens plenty of time to think about the issues on the ballot. Under the Town Meeting format, voters must make an immediate decision without thinking about the consequences of the vote.

- Final voting action under SB2 is so far removed in time from the debate

and discussion that took place at the Deliberative Session that people can lose track of what was discussed at the first meeting. Most voters do not attend the Deliberative Session at all. The result can be legions of confused and uninformed voters.

- The voting under SB2 takes place in the privacy of the voting booth without the pressure of neighbors, friends, family, and fellow citizens watching you vote and noting the position you

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family always had a farm float in the parade, and in 1962 they won the grand prize. Riding on the float were Les Fenton, Ellie Fenton, Margie Fenton, and Cheri Fenton. Dennis remembers Amos Johnson's band in many parades, as well as Bill George and his livestock, both of which were always enjoyed by the crowd.

There were originally no fireworks. In fact, they were banned during the war, but kids did have sparklers and little firecrackers. After the war, sometime in the late 1940s, the first fireworks were

launched from the "Number 9" railroad yard, which is now Blackwater Park.

Just a fun fact: In 1964, the cost for the fireworks display was \$635. In 2022, the committee will pay \$15,000 for the display!

Anyone who would like to join our committee, please come to a meeting. We meet on the first Wednesday of the month at the Andover Community Hub at 7 PM.

For more information, contact Doug Phelps at 603 977-0037 or Doug.Phelps80@gmail.com; Donna French at 603 735-6131 or DonnaFrench@comcast.net; or Beth Frost at 603 455-2882 or BFrost99@icloud.com.

take on any/all issues.

- A traditional Town Meeting can and has been a time of hotly contested viewpoints. Decorum and polite debate have been tossed out the window as insults and unsubstantiated accusations are flung about.

- The traditional Town Meeting approves the Town budget and warrant articles at a long Town Meeting where, typically, only a couple hundred votes are cast and there is the potential for special-interest groups to push their own agendas and to take control of ballot and budget issues.

- Because the votes at the Deliberative Session are not final, many people don't consider attendance to be important. Data from towns that have adopted SB2 show a marked reduction in meeting attendance. In many cases, the smaller number of attendees means the quality of the debate is poor and those present tend to go along with the recommendations of the governing body, or of special-interest groups.

- With SB2, towns must rely on websites, newsletters, and other media to get information out to the public prior to the voting session, but some residents do not have internet access or read papers. Attending a traditional Town Meeting is their only way to become informed.

- The purpose of the Deliberative Session is to determine the wording of

the articles and the final form of ballot questions. While the wording of some warrant articles may not be amended (e.g. zoning articles), the general rule is that all other warrant articles are subject to amendment. For example, an appropriation article could be amended down from \$250,000.00 to \$0. The New Hampshire Supreme Court ruled in 2008 that deleting all language from a warrant article except the words "To see" was permissible.

- If the SB2 Deliberative Session is lightly attended or only attended by those pushing a specific agenda, what's presented to the voters on Voting Day may be far different from what the governing body had proposed. Likewise, if a traditional Town Meeting is poorly attended, what gets voted in may be far different from what the governing body presented at the Public Hearing and published in the annual Town Report.

This article is only attempting to highlight the differences between a traditional Town Meeting and the SB2 format. The Select Board is presenting the SB2 warrant article solely as a means for the citizens of Andover to decide for themselves which method of voting is best suited for our town.

For those who care about this outcome, it is vital that you attend and vote at the upcoming Town Meeting on March 8, at the Andover Elementary/Middle School beginning at 7 PM.

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