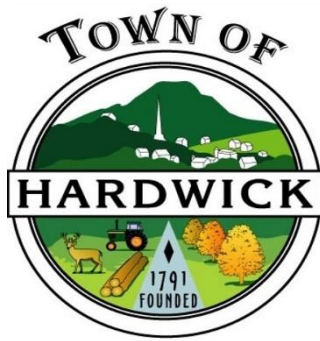




Town Meeting Options Task Force

Purpose

The Town Meeting Options Task Force is established to review and evaluate alternatives for conducting future Town Meetings and voting procedures in Hardwick. The Task Force will gather information, consider the advantages and disadvantages of various approaches, seek public input, and provide recommendations to the Select Board for consideration.

Scope of Review

The Task Force may consider, but is not limited to, the following options:

- Traditional floor meeting with voting from the floor
- Australian ballot voting
- Hybrid models combining floor meetings and Australian ballot voting
- Informational meetings held prior to voting
- Other formats permitted under Vermont law

The Task Force shall not have decision-making authority. Its role is advisory only.

Membership

- Nine (9) members appointed by the Select Board, plus a Select Board representative
- Membership should, to an extent practical, represent a variety of viewpoints and community interests.
- The Task Force shall elect a Chair and Vice Chair from among its members at its first meeting.

Meetings

- The Task Force shall meet as needed to complete its work.
- Meetings shall be open to the public and conducted in accordance with applicable Vermont law.
- A majority of appointed members shall constitute a quorum.

Public Engagement

The Task Force shall hold at least one public forum prior to finalizing its recommendations and may seek additional public input through surveys, listening sessions, or other outreach methods deemed appropriate.

Deliverables

The Task Force shall prepare a written report to the Select Board that:

1. Summarizes the options considered.

2. Identifies advantages and disadvantages of each option.
3. Summarizes public feedback received.
4. Provides recommendations for future Town Meeting procedures.

Timeline

The Task Force shall submit its final report and recommendations to the Select Board no later than November 19, 2026, unless extended by the Select Board.

Staff Support

The Town Manager and Town staff may provide administrative assistance, meeting support, and access to relevant information as needed.

Sunset

The Task Force shall dissolve on July 16, 2027, unless other extended by the Select Board.

Adopted by the Hardwick Select Board on July 16, 2026.

Ceilidh Galloway-Kane, Select Board Chair

ATTEST:

Tonia Chase, Town Clerk