

Respect for town meeting

Letter to the Concord Journal
April 21 2016

This follows on a letter last month, after the school committee election, a letter that celebrated the progress of our democracy the last few years. Town meeting has now added — much more than — a coda.

Consider, we voted:

- A bus facility, finally
- Also, to broach putting buses back to the high school, in some configuration
- To send remediation of the landfill back to the drawing board
- A moratorium on (town) synthetic turf fields

also

- To work to protect pollinators
- To begin banning polystyrene
- A de-mansionization measure
- Several housing measures.

And as one protagonist observed, we did this with relative consensus and comity. Perhaps this reflects effective citizen participation in the year-round cycle that culminates in town meeting. Then, many motions that reach the annual legislative warrant already combine relevant viewpoints. Certainly, that is one essence of democracy.

Unlike the broken, stymied national legislature in Washington, Concord's legislative body delivered — as such, town meeting demands our respect. Certainly not the disdain shown by at least one of the chairs of the school committees, as reported in each of the last two Concord Journals.

Indeed, neighbors entrusted for a time with authority are responsible faithfully to execute the wishes of the town meeting legislature — wishes confirmed in the ensuing ballot that, again, sent remediation back to the drawing board. Concord's direct

(and precious) form of democracy echoed, once again, at the ballot box.

For some video clips of choice moments — particularly a delightful skit, a tribute to the moderator who is stepping down: concord-trustingtheprocess.org/TM16.

—David Allen, Heaths Bridge Road

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<http://concord.wickedlocal.com/news/20160421/concords-letters-to-editor-heres-what-you-had-to-say-this-week>