

TOWN OF NORFOLK

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TOWN MEETING "HOW TO" SEMINAR OFFERED TO NORFOLK RESIDENTS "Make Law, Not Warrants" Talk Offers Practical Tips for Translating Ideas into Action

NORFOLK-- Norfolk Town Moderator Dan Winslow will offer a free seminar to town residents interested in making proposals to improve the town and solve problems for this Spring's Annual Town Meeting. The seminar will be held on Saturday, January 24, 2009 at 10:00 a.m. at the Norfolk Library Lounge Conference Room. Town Meeting in Norfolk begins on the second Tuesday of May, which this year is May 12 at the KP Middle School on King Street.

"Town Meeting is the legislative branch of town government," noted Winslow, "and any Norfolk voter is eligible to participate in the process by making proposals as well as deciding which proposals to approve into law. Our town's bylaws are the local equivalent of statutes at the state level, and bylaw changes can govern how well the town functions, where money is spent or saved, and issues directly related to the quality of life of our town."

The Board of Selectmen recently opened the "Warrant", which is the agenda for the May Town Meeting, with a deadline of February 26, at 4:00 p.m. at the Selectmen's Office. "Any proposals for Town Meeting must be submitted for the Selectmen's consideration by that deadline," said Winslow, "so this seminar will give practical pointers about how to write a proposal and the process of moving a proposal from the Warrant to approval at Town Meeting. "We're calling this the 'Make Law, Not Warrants' seminar," Winslow joked.

As Moderator, Winslow takes no public positions on the merits of any issues at Town Meeting and will assist all citizens with their ideas and suggestions. "Town Meeting is direct democracy and a chance to make a positive difference in our town," said Winslow. Anyone with an idea or suggestion for consideration at Town Meeting is welcome to attend. Residents seeking more information or to schedule additional meetings with the Town Moderator may contact Dan Winslow at winslow@virtualnorfolk.org.

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