

Hi Ruth I sent Becca a note just like this one a few minutes ago. I have not met the rest of the committee members so I thought I would share this with you, in case Becca doesn't.

I just heard from Ted Brady that the committee's most recent version of S.55 would eliminate my towns ability to hold meetings that are either fully remote or fully in person. That would be a huge problem for our small town. Not only do we not have the equipment or personnel to make Hybrid work today we also have limited public spaces that can accommodate the setup. We also have meetings of different groups at the same time which would become super complicated if not impossible.

I for instance am a town staff member who participates in Select Board meetings, who staffs the Development Review Board and reports at all Planning Commission Meetings. I also volunteer for the Energy Committee (where we first met). Avoiding meeting overlap for these groups alone is challenging. I can't imagine forcing hybrid meetings into the mix would make life any easier or any better for the participants.

Using technology as a result of the pandemic has been wonderful. Attendance at meetings is way up when they are remote. When we have tried hybrid meetings with the basic equipment we do have it has usually been a time consuming disaster, which no one has wanted to repeat.

I just can't see how a hybrid requirement makes any sense for a small rural town like Huntington. Please pass this on to the rest of the committee for me.

Regards,
Yves

Yves Gonnet
Zoning Administrative Officer