

TOWN MODERATOR

Ronald J. Marcella

Open Annual and Special Town Meetings is the vehicle Dalton uses to operate its business throughout the year. Town meetings are also what New Englanders conduct each year across the region.

I am always amazed at the usually small turnout of voters at our Annual and Special Town Meetings. I am convinced, however, that the small turnout is a symbol of the confidence and respect our voters have in our elected and volunteer town officials and those responsible in preparing the budgets and articles. We are fortunate to have these dedicated and responsible people who give unselfishly of their time and talents, serving on the Select and Finance boards. Many long hours go into the preparation of the budget and articles. We are equally fortunate to have equally dedicated and qualified town department heads and town hall employees in every area who smoothly run the day to day business of the town. Collectively, all these people do an excellent job in funding and operating our town in spite of the shrinking state aid.

Any voter who takes the time and interest to attend a meeting has the opportunity to speak on a subject at least once. I urge voters to do their homework on a subject they wish to speak about, and prepare a statement prior to their speaking to ensure that they give the most informative data and best present their views. Initiators and supporters of major projects or controversial topics arrive with material in support of their presentation to fortify and ensure the item passes as presented. They encourage supportive voters and advocates to attend the meeting. We should all take a lead from this example and go to meetings prepared.

I encourage everyone, and especially those who haven't attended a Town Meeting in a while, to come and exercise your right to vote and partake in the process of real democracy.