

## **Bristol Town Administrator**

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**From:** Kevin Hanson <khanson.pc@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 20, 2022 2:35 PM  
**To:** Bristol Town Administrator  
**Cc:** Jeff Lunstead; Kris Perlee  
**Subject:** Selecboard Meeting Item VI 4.

Valerie,

A few thoughts about the Selectboard Item VI 4. regarding public meetings:

On a personal note, I am on the MAUSD School Board (MAUSD-SB) that has adopted remote only meetings. The MAUSD-SB has struggled (without much success) with hybrid meetings. Being a larger Board with what seems like more public attendees, especially at meetings with many controversial topics lately, a workable hybrid solution has been elusive. So going totally remote sets that problem aside. There is personal convenience to remote meetings, even though for the most part I personally have been traveling to meeting locations rather than Zooming in.

For the Planning Commission, we have been using hybrid meetings pretty effectively. Person attendees have ranged from as many as 4 Commissioners plus the Zoning Administrator, to various combinations of fewer people. It indicates that there are those who like to be in person. The balance of Commissioners have been "Zooming" in, probably for a variety of reasons. Public participation, which has been limited, to date has Zoomed in as well.

I would recommend that the Selectboard continue hybrid meetings to allow the choice of personal or remote participation.

As this whole mess lingers on, there is more and more recognition of the steep emotional price that has been and is still being paid for isolation, which Zoom is an aspect of. With Omicron subsiding, the next strain yet to be identified, and many starting to use the term endemic, it seems like the Town would be sending out a negative signal to pull back from at least hybrid meetings.

Kevin Hanson