

Town Government Study Committee  
Minutes 2/24/2016

Date: February 24, 2016

Members Present: Gene Blanchard, Gay Shanahan, Susan Curtis, Kathleen Glynn, Ted Flynn, Anne Ward, Alex Chin, Marty Desmery

Members Absent: John Tuffy

Guests: Rene Read, Jeannie Horne, Fernando Guitart

The meeting was called to order at 7:05. Rene Read and Jeannie Horne took the time to explain the proposed purposes of the Personnel Plan Articles 4a and 4b in the Warrant. The group had several clarification questions. Kathleen indicated that, after hearing these proposed changes previously at FinComm as well, she felt that Article 4b had not been fully vetted. Discussion continued, with Marty commenting that he saw the Article 4b as a good proposal to streamline Town Meeting as well as town government's ability to act between town meetings. Gene moved the article and Susan seconded. Article 4b was supported 7-1-0.

The group next discussed Article 12 which proposes to change the date of Town Meeting and the town election. Fernando Guitart, from the Concerned Citizens group sponsoring the article, indicated that the article which appears in the warrant will be moved for an additional change on the floor of Town Meeting, moving the proposed dates to the first Saturday (Town Meeting) and third Saturday (election) in May. Gene moved the article and Susan seconded. Article 12, as it is proposed to be amended, was supported by a vote of 8-0-0.

The committee next discussed the Article 14 regarding the "minor in possession" bylaw. The group discussed the possible benefits to the Police as well as the possible negative outcomes later in life to the students. Ultimately the group decided that this article was not within the scope of the committees work.

The survey subcommittee then presented the results of the survey. Although there were additional paper surveys to collect, there were an estimated 600 responses to the survey, which was deemed very good in terms of typical percentages. Overall there were no big surprises, except possible the level of interest in exploring having 5 selectmen rather than 3. The results were presented graphically, with a summary table and list of comments. We agreed not to distribute paper copies at Town Meeting, but to have it available on the TGSC web page of the Town's website.

The committee reviewed its report to Town Meeting and made a handful of changes and edits. It was decided that Gene would present the report at Town Meeting.

The bylaws subcommittee then discussed their work. They have completely reviewed the Town's bylaws and indicated the many places where suggested changes are in order for consistency and clarification purposes. Once the committee decides if it suggests any content changes to the bylaws a more comprehensive follow-up plan will be developed.

The committee approved minutes from 1/27/2016 with a vote of 7-0-1.

It was decided that Gay would draft a letter to the BoS regarding an inquiry for services from the Department of Revenue's Technical Assistance bureau. Ted indicated that he would put the letter on the next available agenda. Anne requested that the letter reference Dr. Tantillo's interest in this review.

The Committee's next meeting is on March 30<sup>th</sup>. We will meet at the Senior Center.

Respectfully submitted,

Gay Shanahan