

Town Government Study Committee Meeting Minutes June 29, 2016

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

No visitors were present.

Gay Shanahan called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm.

1. Town Meeting: The committee discussed various aspects of Town Meeting.

- Attendance - is it a problem and if so, how can it be addressed
- Benefits and disadvantages of open vs. representative town meeting, town council model
- Need for educational materials about Town Meeting, webinar, webpage for public access/review
- Ballot question for changing the date of ATM - Gene will check statute
- TGSC survey results about town government/TM (3 v 5 selectmen, etc)
- Separate articles that require appropriation from those that do not into distinct sessions of TM
- Review how articles are ordered and options for reconsideration
- Recall

Of 25 Plymouth County towns:

- Bridgewater and Brockton have town councils
- Only Plymouth has representative Town Meeting
- 13 towns have 5 members of the Board of Selectmen
- 12 towns have 3 members of the Board of Selectmen
- Only Duxbury and West Bridgewater have a Town Manager and 3 BoS members

2. Bylaw revisions: forwarded to town counsel for review

3. Community Compact: Meeting set up with Rene Read July 13 to determine whether other town departments wish to participate. TGSC will determine 1-2 best practices to submit with BoS request.

4. TGSC Report: define sections and start to build report as we go. Gay and Susan will meet to outline the process.

5. Other business: discussion of public comment

Meeting adjourned at 9:20pm. Next meeting is July 13 at 7pm at the Senior Center.

