

## Town Government Study Committee

Date: December 16, 2015

Members Present: Gene Blanchard, Gay Shanahan, Susan Curtis, Kathleen Glynn, Ted Flynn, John Tuffy

Members Absent: Alex Chin, Anne Ward, Marty Desmery

Visitors: George Wadsworth, Frank Mangione, Finance Committee, Fernando Guitart, Concerned Citizens of Duxbury

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The Town Government Study Committee (TGSC) meeting was called to order at 7:05 pm by Gay Shanahan, Chair in the Duxbury Free Library Setter Room.

Fernando Guitart, Concerned Citizens of Duxbury (CCD), expressed his group's concern about a lack of participation at Town Meeting. Mr. Guitart stated that the CCD felt that annual town meeting participation might be increased if the annual town meeting was moved to May and transpiration was provided for seniors.

Mr. Guitart said that the CCD had placed an article in the March 2016 Annual Town Meeting to change the date of future Annual Town Meetings to the Second Saturday in May. Ms. Ward reported that a past School Committee had supported a later annual town meeting. Mr. Flynn said that the previous Government Study Committee had recommended a later annual town meeting. After some discussion it became clear that moving the Annual Town Meeting would require coordination with the community so as to avoid any conflicts with existing events.

It was suggested that town residents be surveyed in order to understand why people don't participate in town meeting.

John Madden, Finance Director shared his thoughts on how to increase efficiencies in town government.

Mr. Madden feels that the consolidation of the finance department has benefited the town as departments now have better communication with each other; and that the addition of a Facilities Manager has resulted in improved maintenance as well as cost savings.

Mr. Madden suggested that the upcoming technology study will help the town in assessing what, if any, technology resources can be shared and/or consolidated across town and school departments.

Mr. Madden thought that a consolidated town and school Human Resources department should be investigated. He went on to say that once the new financial software is fully implemented there may be opportunities for greater sharing of resources between town and school departments.

Anne Ward and Susan Curtis reported that the TGSC survey would use Survey Monkey and that the survey is expected to be distributed after the holidays.

Gay Shanahan reminded that committee that next meeting would be at 7:00 pm January 28, 2016 in the Duxbury Free Library Setter Room. The Department of Revenue, Division of Local Services would be at the meeting to talk about their Technical Services Resources.

Meeting adjourned at 9:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

John Tuffy  
Secretary Pro Tem