

TOWN GOVERNMENT STUDY COMMITTEE

Thursday, March 13, 2014 – Minutes

Meeting called to order by the Chairperson at 6:04 p.m. & read the recording disclaimer.

Present: Chairperson: Phil Washko, Vice Chair: Bernie Roderick, Mark Badwey, Dick Douglass, Rich Griffiths, Siobhan Henebury (arrived 6:07pm) and Pattie Pacella.

Absent: Linda Meredith and G. Steve Riley

AGENDA:

Review/approve minutes: March 6, 2014

Dick Douglass advised the date on these minutes were incorrect, Pattie to correct. With that amendment, Pattie Pacella made a motion to approve the March 6, 2014 minutes and was seconded by Bernie Roderick. The motion passed unanimously.

Opening Public Comment:

No one present.

Review/discuss DPW Advisory Board article/special legislation:

Phil Washko advised he met with Attorney Crotty to review the wording for the Advisory Board article/special legislation wording. He explained the Board could be elected and an advisory board. There was discussion on Pro's of Appointed Board vs. Elected Board:

Pro's of Appointed Board:

- Knowledge & Experience of Members
- Representation of precincts
- Potentially broaden the number of people on the Board

Pro's of Elected Board:

- Public voice concerns for Elected
- The Board wanted it to stay elected (& it can, it's a compromise)
- A resource/Think Tank

Dick Douglass said it didn't matter either way.

Rich Griffiths asked if the article could be amended on the Town Meeting floor, which Phil said it could.

Phil Washko took a straw vote and everyone agreed it should be an Elected Advisory Board. Mr. Washko said that it would retain the same services as before, an advisory board to the Department of Public Works, the Superintendent and the Town Administrator.

A few grammatical errors were corrected.

Bernie Roderick made a motion to approve the article and special legislation for the Elected BPW Advisory Board and was seconded by Dick Douglass. The motion passed unanimously.

Discuss IT Strategy recommendation:

Phil Washko explained the last time we met there seemed some resistance to create a Committee for IT. He explained the current IT Committee at Town Hall, and said so we are not really creating a new but just expanding on the responsibilities and members of the new Committee.

The current committee members are: Jeff Osuch, Anne Kakley, Bill Roth, and Wendy Graves

Anne Kakley was present and said she was in support of the Article. She said that currently the IT Committee is working on software and hardware issues, but should expand to get a professional assessment and move forward.

Discussion on whether there should be a Consultant hired first for a needs assessment before the Committee was in place.

Review of the IT Strategy recommendation and also Dick presented the members with one that he reworded a bit. He mainly put at the top that the priority was to get a Consultant to perform a needs assessment and then make up a Committee of Town Department employees.

A brief discussion on whether or not the IT Committee should include a "School Department designee". Bernie Roderick said he was unsure whether they would be interested.

Dick Douglass made a motion to accept the IT Advisory Committee Article and send it to Town Meeting and was seconded by Mark Badwey. The motion passed 5-1, with Bernie Roderick oppose.

Discuss/plan April public forums:

Phil Washko to reach out to WBSM & Beth David about talking/writing an article about the recommendations from the TGSC. Mr. Washko advised that the dates would be coming up to go in front of the Board of Selectman and Finance Committee to get their support on our articles. He would forward those dates to members.

Everyone agreed that we need to have the Articles printed and available for anyone to read at the Public Forums as well as mailed out to Town Meeting members, and to have available at precinct meetings.

Phil Washko said that the data from the public surveys would be available at the public forums for quick review.

Everyone agreed on a power point presentation and a hand out.

ACTION ITEM #1: Phil would contact the 3 local newspapers for advertising a press release for public forum.

ACTION ITEM #2: Siobhan Henebury will be in charge of snacks for the WIIA public forum on April 3rd, with additional help from Pattie Pacella.

ACTION ITEM #3: Mark Badwey agreed to take care of snacks for the Town Hall public forum on April 17th.

Discuss Capital Improvement Planning Committee Options:

Phil Washko advised that Board of Selectman have taken this over, however they just used the planning committee from Mattapoisett and changed a little wording. There was some discussion on whether the TGSC should review it.

It was agreed that Phil Washko would ask for a copy of the Article so we could review it at our next meeting.

Other questions from the committee, discussions or related committee business:

Pattie Pacella asked about the committee asking for a budget for next year, believing that we were asking for it late in the process.

Bernie Roderick made a motion to draft and submit an article an appropriation of \$5,000 for Town Government Study Committee and was seconded by Pattie Pacella. The motion passed unanimously.

Mark Badwey asked if we should go in front of other Committee's to advise of our recommendations. Phil Washko said we could, and that we should definitely be getting the word out to invite people to the public forums for more details.

Everyone agreed to invite the BPW Board to our March 27th meeting so we could just, as a courtesy, tell them what we have recommended for their board.

ACTION ITEM #4: Pattie Pacella will contact Steve Riley to invite them to the 3/27 meeting.

Bernie Roderick made a motion to adjourn and was seconded by Pattie Pacella. The motion passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 7:57 p.m.

Respectively submitted,

Patricia A. Pacella
Recording Secretary