

## Town Government Study Committee Minutes of 8-14-14 meeting

Meeting called to order by the chairperson at 6:00pm

Chairperson read recording disclaimer

Present: Chair: Phil Washko, Mark Badwey, Rich Griffiths, Siobhan Henebery

Absent: Bernie Roderick, Pattie Pacella, Dick Douglass

### **Agenda Items:**

Review and approve minutes from July 24 meeting. Mark Badwey made the motion to approve, second by Rich Griffiths. The motion passed unanimously.

Opening public comment: no members of the public present.

Mark Badwey presented the information gathered relative to the size of FinCom. Most government and business committees found an optimum committee size was 7 +/- 2. Most FinComs he had seen were 9 members. More than 80% were appointed, and of the 89 appointed Fincoms in the state, 70 of them are appointed by the Town Moderator. A few were appointed by the BOS, few by a joint BOS/TM/Fincom chair committee, and Fairhaven is alone in appointments by precinct chairs.

Discussion on Fincom ensued. Chairperson proposed that Mark Badwey find several towns with smaller Fincoms and speak with them. Rich Griffiths proposed Mark find out how many vacancies our Fincom has had over the last 10-20 years. Discussion on measuring Fincom meeting attendance; it was concluded that getting that information would take too long. Chairperson proposed Mark Badwey call the MMA and ATFC and find out that resources they have for Fincom best practices. Mark agreed.

**Action Items: Phil Washko to send MMA phone number to Mark Badwey, Mark Badwey to research and note several peer towns with smaller Fincoms and contact them, Mark Badwey to research Fincom vacancies over the past 10-20 years, Mark Badwey to call the MMA and ATFC regarding Fincom size and appointment best practices and report back to committee.**

Chair passed two copies of revised public survey with formatting edits. Mark Badwey asked if all citizen comments would be included. Chair reiterated the committee's prior decision to distribute all information unedited. Siobhan Henebery proposed adding clear disclaimer to the cover page indicating that the survey information does not represent the TGSC and is unedited. Mark Badwey noted a personal comment on the results. Chairperson proposed to contact Town Moderator and ask about distributing information with personal attacks.

Rich Griffiths explained the comparison he had completed which compared Fairhaven's bylaws with the Plymouth charter. Discussion ensued over the many missing sections, unclear comparisons and potentially contentious items for review. Rich proposed setting a target schedule to review each section.

**Action Items: Rich to prepare target schedule, Phil Washko to distribute comparison information.**

Discussion ensued on other potentially contentious items such as Town Meeting, BOH appointment authority, BPW and appointed vs. elected positions/committees.

**Action Item: Chairperson volunteered to begin research on TM attendance, at-large membership, annual meeting timing, caucuses and conflicts of interest.**

Meeting schedule was set for every other Thursday, 6pm, Town Hall Banquet Room as follows:

9/4  
9/18  
10/2  
10/16  
10/30  
11/13

Next meeting is at 6pm at Town Hall Banquet Room on Thursday, August 21 at 6pm.

Motion to adjourn made by Mark Badwey, seconded by Rich Griffiths. Motion carried unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 7:15pm.

Respectfully submitted.

Phil Washko, Chair