

TOWN GOVERNMENT STUDY COMMITTEE

Thursday, August 21, 2014 – Minutes

Meeting called to order by the Chairperson at 6:00 p.m. and the Chairperson read the recording disclaimer.

Present: Chairperson: Phil Washko, Vice Chair: Bernie Roderick, Mark Badwey, Dick Douglass, Rich Griffiths, Siobhan Henebury, and Pattie Pacella

AGENDA:

Review/approve minutes: August 14, 2014

Pattie Pacella made a motion to approve the August 14th minutes and was seconded by Rich Griffiths.. The motion passed unanimously.

Opening Public Comment:

None.

Review action items & discuss:

There was early discussion/concern about deadlines/timelines, etc.

Rich Griffiths made up provisions comparing Plymouth to our Town by-laws and added a column of how long it would need to address. He figured 24 meetings and it would take us to the end of February.

Dick Douglass suggested sub committees to do research and discuss and then bring it back.

Rich Griffiths suggested doing it by peace mail instead of hitting it straight on.

There is 2/3 or more coverage from our by-laws.

Phil Washko suggested that we agree with everything we are putting into the Charter.

Discussion on things we haven't tackled or researched – problem areas.

Phil Washko suggested diving into 1st section of charter and hashing it out, so we can see how long that takes us.

Dick Douglass suggested using current by-laws (for status quo things) & putting in for now with the hope that a Charter review in the future would hit on it again.

ACTION # 1: All to reread Section 1 & Section 7 review dated 8/16/14 version & Phil Washko will resend.

Fin Comm Review:

Mark Badwey reviewed vacancies – Board size research that he did amongst other Towns. Appointments mostly done through moderator.

Bernie Roderick reviewed how Fairhaven appoints, elects Finance Committee members. He suggested qualified candidates could be weeded through by Town Moderator.

Dick Douglass suggested offering trainings to those who wanted to be committee members.

Discussion ensued.

ACTION #2: Phil Washko to set up meeting with Fin Com – to learn from their expertise.

ACTION #3: To send potential questions for Fin Com meeting.

Rich Griffiths offered a question to where the Fin Com believes they sit on a Town Organizational chart. (In Plymouth it's the legislative branch)

Bernie Roderick is continuing working on Strong Chief.

Pattie Pacella is continuing working on BOH Appointee.

Quick discussion ensued on Special Town Meeting in Fall if we could offer any updates.

ACTION #4: Brainstorm Outreach ideas to the public. (ie: Ice Bucket Challenge)

Bernie Roderick and Pattie Pacella asked about the survey, if it was ready to be publicized.

Mr. Roderick did not think the personal comments should be sent out, but again there was discussion that it wasn't up to us to NOT put that out there. We made up the survey and owe it to the public to publish in its entity.

All agreed no meeting on Thanksgiving, 11/27.

Pattie Pacella made a motion to adjourn and was seconded by Bernie Roderick. The motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 7:27 p.m.

Respectively submitted,

Patricia A Pacella
Recording Secretary