

TOWN GOVERNMENT STUDY COMMITTEE

Thursday, October 2, 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.

Absent:

AGENDA:

Review/approve minutes: None.

Opening Public Comment:

None.

Review Research:

Bernie Roderick explained the Ethics Commission answer to advocate publically for passage of said ballot question. Mr. Roderick gave the information that we could not as members of TGSC.

Phil Washko asked him to get clarification in sending out information packets to residents on why we made the decision we did, the research we had.

Mr. Roderick gave his research findings on Strong Chief – explain the home rule petition for Fairhaven. Mark Badwey also did some additional research to find out what local Towns that have graveled with this decision.

Both agreed to continue with further research.

Bernie Roderick advised those that wanted to attend the Board of Health meeting is scheduled for October 20th in the East room at 6:00p.m.

ACTION ITEM #1: Everyone to forward questions for the BOH to Phil Washko.

Dick Douglass updated everyone on his Civil Service Research. He said other than Police and Fire Departments in Town that there were 16 secretaries and custodians within the School Department (26 people) that were in the Civil Service and it sounded like they wanted out.

He identified a few Towns that appear all out of Civil Service. Franklin is trying to get out of the Fire Department but did it with the police.. Mr. Douglass spoke to Chief of Police, Mike Myers who said he was concerned with the aftermath.

If our Town does away with Civil Service, people in would be grandfathered under Civil Service.

Discussion ensued.

Bernie Roderick asked if we could get support from these departments if we were to decide to write the article.

Discussion on independent testing.

Rich Griffiths explained his research on Elected vs. Appointed Boards and Committees. He explained his handouts to the Committee.

Phil Washko asked a question on whether our Committee would benefit or not from delving into every Committee.

Everyone agreed to digest the information until our next meeting.

Siobhan Henebury suggested that we focus on what the Colin Center person suggested as a measure.

Mark Badwey reported his research on the Finance Committee. He found that 13-15 members were also on a Finance Advisory Committee.

Mr. Roderick said he was uncomfortable with the Finance Committee being an advisory board.

Discussion ensued.

A brief discussion of the most recent Fin Committee meeting was had.

Mr. Roderick thought the meeting was relatively defensive. He felt we were there to ask their opinion.

We are the only Town that members are elected by Precinct Chair, usually they are done thru the Town Moderator.

In other research, Pattie Pacella was waiting for the BOH meeting on 10/20/14 to get more research done.

Phil Washko was going to continue his research with the Town Meeting information.

Regarding the public survey, Phil Washko spoke with Atty. Crotty who said it was up to us on how we wanted to publish the survey. Mr. Washko suggested that the comments be sent to the Boards that the comments were about. He said they would have a full packet to anyone upon request.

Dick Douglass suggested coding responses, and the Committee didn't feel that we needed to do that, seems like that's overthinking what we are trying to get out to the public.

Phil Washko to complete the cover page from the surveys.

Green Community information was shared by Siobhan Henebury. She explained there had to be 5 criteria met around zoning. Ms. Henebury to continue on with the research.

Phil Washko gave an update on the TA Article. It had passed at the House of Representatives but hadn't passed the Senate as of yet. A special town meeting was scheduled for December 9th and it would have to go to the Town Meeting again. Questions arose around what would BOS want to do.. might be conflicting if the TA passes and the BPW is still outstanding until the April election.

Phil Washko to start a discussion with the BOS. But everyone agreed they'd like to wait til the May Town Meeting.

PUBLIC OUTREACH:

Review of an ad in Fairhaven Neighborhood news potentially. Discussion.

Phil Washko asked everyone to think of some catchy phrases to add to the advertisement. "Yell at Us".. etc.

Dick Douglass will contact Town Clerk to find out if we can put any information in any updating mailings.

Board of Health questions to Bernie Roderick.

Upcoming Meetings:

October 16th

November 13th

November 20th

December 4th

December 18th

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

Respectively submitted,

Patricia A. Pacella
Recording Secretary