

TOWN GOVERNMENT STUDY COMMITTEE

Thursday, January 8, 2015 – Minutes

Meeting called to order by the Chairperson at 6:00 p.m. and the Chairperson advised the meeting was being recorded through public access.

Present: Chairperson: Phil Washko, Vice Chair: Bernie Roderick, Mark Badwey, Dick Douglass, Rich Griffiths, Siobhan Henebury (arrived at 6:17pm) and Pattie Pacella.

Minutes: Pattie Pacella made a motion to accept the December 30, 2014 minutes and Dick Douglass second. The motion passed unanimously.

Dick Douglass made a motion to accept the December 4, 2014 minutes and as seconded by Rich Griffiths. The motion passed unanimously.

AGENDA:

Opening Public Comment:

None.

Review Research:

1. Fin Com

Phil Washko said it needed a little more tweaking, especially when Moderator would be appointing for same term or different terms. Mark Badwey reported that Deerfield put as appointment at the 3-2-2 year, discussion ensued.

Bernie Roderick made a motion to include the wording as an amendment to the Finance Committee proposed sheet and was seconded by Mark Badwey. The motion passed unanimously.

Phil Washko proposed adding a sentence that "The Chairperson may elect to appoint a Recording Secretary." To the draft proposal.

Pattie Pacella made a motion to add this amendment and was seconded by Mark Badwey. The motion passed unanimously.

The draft proposal would also need to amend the by-law to change the appointment from Precinct Meetings for appointments to the Finance Committee. The date it should go into effect will be left to Town Counsel to advise.

Rich Griffiths proposed an option to fill in vacancies, not for unexpired term but to appoint for 3 years as current Finance Committee members all said was a growing curve.

Discussion on unexpired terms.

2. Term Limits

Mark Badwey said he will try and have a draft for the next meeting. Mr. Badwey suggested giving the draft to Tom Crotty to write up as he tried to review past by-laws with not much luck.

Bernie Roderick brought up some concerns on how to have pros/cons for Town Meeting.

Dick Douglass didn't see it increasing candidacy.

Phil Washko reminded that we were going to Town Meeting with them to go to the voters, not our committee approving or disapproving Term Limits.

Discussion ensued. Is there any benefit? Is there enough merit to warrant term limits?

Pattie Pacella asked if we were making the recommendation to Town Meeting to send to the voter, would we need to list benefits either way.

Mark Badwey asked what were the benefits, he wasn't sure he agreed.

Suggestion for a non binding referendum.

Dick Douglass was unsure we could defend the benefits.

Phil Washko kept coming back to our survey and that the voters suggested they wanted Term Limits.

More discussion on non binding referendum. A straw vote was taken and except for Rich Griffiths abstaining, straw vote was to act on a non binding referendum.

Mark Badwey to draft language for such. Discussion on any exceptions.

The draft would include 3 terms, which is 9 years for Board of Selectman, 15 years for Planning Board; for every elected position except for Town Clerk & Moderator. Mark Badwey will take a look at drafting something up for next meeting.

3. Town Meeting

Survey for Town Meeting members, we went over potential questions. Pattie Pacella to type up survey questions in word format and send to Phil Washko for revisions.

Bernie Roderick made a motion to have Pattie Pacella draft up final and Phil Washko to expend \$1,000 to send out the surveys and was seconded by Mark Badwey. The motion passed unanimously.

Surveys to go out to all elected and non elected Town Meeting members.

In other business, January 22 is the deadline for place holders for Town Meeting. We have potential of 4 recommendations:

1. IT Assessment
2. Fin Com
3. Term Limits non binding referendum
4. Potential Town Meeting article

Phil Washko to draft and have at our next meeting.

PUBLIC OUTREACH:

Dick Douglass suggested outreach via a newsletter (if we could get it printed for free). He will research some avenues and perhaps approach magazines, Soco & Insider.

WBSM – Phil P in am. Phil Washko has spoken with hi and they need to set a date.

Set a date for a public forum

½ page ad with Neighborhood News

Bernie Roderick asked if we send our final report to all Town Voters.

We had a couple of questions for the Town Moderator – purpose of wrapping up our group, how do we give information of what we found (our we over stepping our boundaries giving our information Town wide).

Brief discussion on our time is near the end, and we have unfinished business. How do we express that to the Town Administrator in the future, is it among ourselves to do it?

Siobhan Henebury agreed to interpret her worksheet for next meeting.

FYI: Framingham has several Town Meeting sub-committees of Town Study for final reports.

Rich Griffiths made a motion to adjourn and was seconded by Dick Douglass. The motion passed unanimously. Meeting ended at 7:57 p.m.

Respectively submitted,

Patricia A. Pacella
Recording Secretary