

TOWN GOVERNMENT STUDY COMMITTEE

Thursday, February 5, 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, Rich Griffiths, Siobhan Henebury (arrived at 6:07pm) and Pattie Pacella.

Absent: Dick Douglass

Minutes: Bernie Roderick made a motion to accept the January 22, 2015 minutes and Rich Griffiths second. The motion passed unanimously.

AGENDA:

Opening Public Comment:

None.

Review Research:

1. Fin Com

In the hands of Town Counsel for review.

Discussion on unexpired terms.

2. Term Limits

Mark Badwey passed out structure of wording from other by-laws. Brief discussion if not binding, who would return it to TM in future.

Discussion whether it should be retroactive to existing in Terms.

Rich Griffiths made a motion to add retroactive at end of first sentence, and strike last two sentences of recommendation and was seconded by Pattie Pacella. The motion passed 5-1 with Bernie Roderick in opposition.

Rich Griffiths made a motion to send the recommendation to Atty. Crotty as amended for review and was seconded by Pattie Pacella. The motion passed unanimously.

3. Town Meeting

Bernie Roderick passed out information he got from M.G.L. 156 that candidates who want to be re-elected get a note in mail within 49 days before election to be on ballot vs. have to take out papers.

Discussion on TM avenues to explore. Discussion on what we've discussed and how we want to focus on a Town Meeting article.

Brief discussion on avenues to taking steps to increase attendance. Mr. Roderick suggested a \$500 raffle, must be present to win.

Discussion of 'at large members' actually being ex-officio members.

In other business, the Committee set forth Thursday, March 5th at 6:30 for a public forum.

Rich Griffiths suggested we start putting together our final report. Phil Washko said that he has started the framework and would bring to the next meeting.

At 7:18 p.m., Mark Sylvia met with the Committee. He had some suggestions for Town Meeting recommendation.

- Assistant Moderator (nothing in the by-law currently), abides by Robert's Rules.
- Approve Rules of procedural (in a by-law as so wouldn't have to repeat continuously at every TM)
- Structure more material prior to TM. He said that writing a by-law to this affect would be challenging.

Rich Griffiths volunteered to compare our by-laws to another Town's to get the most research/information.

Discussion with Mr. Sylvia on how to encourage attendance. He agreed that increasing the quorum would make sense. Brief discussion with him about "at large" vs. elected members.

Discussion on if you miss more than X number of meetings would be difficult to abide to with that type of restriction.

Discussion with Mr. Sylvia on the Precinct Chair role.

Rich Griffiths asked how the Town Moderator could help increase attendance.

Mr. Sylvia stated that he has recently been invited to East Fairhaven's PTO Meeting to explain what Town Meeting does and he could bring more awareness to people on the Town Meeting process which maybe could increase attendance.

Good discussion with Town Moderator, Mr. Sylvia.

Pattie Pacella made a motion to adjourn and was seconded by Rich Griffiths. The motion passed unanimously. Meeting was adjourned.

Respectively submitted,

Patricia A. Pacella
Recording Secretary