

## Town Meeting Study Committee

### Minutes 1/30/2018

Committee in Attendance: Jim McCaffrey, Erin Underhill, Beth Murphy, Jim Angelo, Mary Russo, Craig Schultze, Marc Conroy.

Others in Attendance: Paul Jacobson, Lisa Hardin

Meeting Called to order by Jim McCaffrey at 7:30 pm.

Paul Jacobson gave overview of committee purpose. We are charged with studying current Town Meeting practices and making recommendations to the Moderator for changes in practice or to the Selectmen for changes in the Town Charter or By Laws to improve the function of Town Meeting.

A motion was made by Craig Schultze, and seconded by Beth Murphy to elect Erin Underhill Committee Chair. This motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Craig Schultze, and seconded by Erin Underhill to elect Beth Murphy Vice Chair. This motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Marc Conroy, and seconded by Jim McCaffrey to elect Craig Schultze Clerk. This motion passed unanimously.

General discussion was held on the areas that can be improved at Town Meeting. With discussion regarding "what are the problems with the existing Town Meeting".

Five major areas were identified (with each area to be addressed at a meeting):

- 1) Efficiency of meetings – How do we speed up the meeting and get out earlier? Would a more efficient meeting encourage higher turn out and more discussion of important issues?
- 2) Voting Process – The discussion here was on secret ballot process vs. standing counts and the use of voting technology. Is the current standing count the best way to conduct a town meeting and would other improve the meeting?
- 3) Day & Time – What is the best day and time for a town meeting? Is the current time detrimental to Senior Citizen turnout? Would another day or time encourage a more representative turnout at the meeting?
- 4) Communication and Technology – Is there a way to better integrate voters in the Gym or Cafeteria into the meeting? Can we improve audio in the auditorium?
- 5) Behavior – How do we discourage disrespectful behavior at Town Meeting? Do we need to bring back Constables?
- 6) A discussion was had regarding our goals... do we want to increase attendance or do we focus on the goal of improving the experience for those that do attend? Are there accommodations needed to increase attendance for a particular group (seniors, parents, those with work the next morning)?

The committee discussed bringing in guest Moderators from other towns to see if there are ideas Millis could adopt.

The motion to adjourn was made at 8:55, and passed unanimously.