

Town of Milton
Town Government Study Committee
June 14, 2012

The Town Government Study Committee met on Thursday, June 14, 2012, in the Cronin Conference Room at Town Hall.

The following members were present: Chairman Rick Neely, John Cronin, Annemarie Fagan, Rob Gatnik, Marvin Gordon, Michael Joyce, Mary McNamara, Leroy Walker and Katie Conlon.

Chairman Neely called the meeting to order at 7:32 p.m.

Mr. Phil Johenning of 23 Parkwood Drive asked for an opportunity to address the Committee. Chairman Neely stated that, unlike certain other boards and committees, the Committee does not have a citizen speak agenda item. However, he permitted Mr. Johenning to address the Committee for three minutes. Mr. Johenning stated that on numerous occasions he contacted certain Town departments by telephone or by letter but, in most cases, either did not receive a response or received an inadequate response. He asked how an employee's job performance is measured. Chairman Neely advised that he would communicate Mr. Johenning's comments to the Board of Selectmen.

On a motion duly made and seconded, the Committee voted 6-0-0 to approve the minutes of its June 7, 2012 meeting.

The Committee met with Tom McCarthy, Chairman of the Board of Park Commissioners, and David Perdios, Director of Parks and Recreation. Chairman Neely explained the Committee's scope of work and purpose in requesting the meeting. Messrs. McCarthy and Perdios discussed the responsibilities of the Parks and Recreation Department and its employees' collaboration and interaction with the Department of Public Works and the School Department. Mr. McCarthy also addressed his experience as Parks Director for the Town of Norwood.

Next, the Committee met with Cemetery Trustees Paul Dolan, Bob Mason and Joe Reardon and Cemetery Superintendent Therese Desmond-Sills. They discussed the organization, operations and finances of the Cemetery Department. Mr. Gordon requested a summary of grave prices charged by municipal and private cemeteries in the area.

The Committee also met with Bob Pattison and Jim Sgroi, information technology managers for the school and non-school departments, respectively. Chairman Neely explained the Committee's scope of work and purpose in requesting the meeting. Messrs. Pattison and Sgroi discussed the state of the Town's technology and answered questions relating to issues including telephone systems, payroll management, IT planning and coordination among departments, software programs used by various departments and whether the Information Technology Committee should be reinstated. Mr. Walker requested a list of hardware and software being used by all departments.

Chairman Neely distributed a one-page Master Planning Committee Charge that he received from Planning Director Bill Clark. Additional information relating to the Planning Board's visioning study for a master plan will be provided to the Committee electronically. Chairman Neely reported on research showing that, in some towns, planning boards are appointed by the board of selectmen. He also noted that the Massachusetts Department of Revenue's Division of Local Services will, at the request of a town's board of selectmen, review its financial management and make recommendations. Chairman Neely suggested that Committee members review the Division of Local Services' reports of its studies of other towns' financial operations, which are available on its website.

The Committee scheduled its next meetings for July 19 and August 23 at 7:00 p.m. Members should submit agenda items to Chairman Neely. Mr. Gatnik and Mr. Joyce informed the Committee that they met with Boston City Councilor Steve Murphy to discuss the city's PILOT program and will give a report at a future meeting.

On a motion duly made and seconded, the Committee voted unanimously to adjourn at 10:28 p.m.

Submitted by:

Katie Conlon
Secretary
June 18, 2012