

To the Citizens of Norwell:

The May 2010 Town Meeting directed the Town Moderator to appoint a Government Study Committee to examine the present structure of the municipal side of town government. This committee was instructed to present a recommendation to the 2011 Town Meeting as to whether our community should change to a Town Manager form of government or to make other recommendations designed to improve Norwell's governance.

From the beginning, we, the appointed members of the Government Study Committee, agreed on several points:

1. We had no preconceived notions. Our recommendations would be based on the information gathered and analyzed.
2. We would examine the structure of town government. This was not about the people working for the town as volunteers or employees.
3. Our recommendations would pertain to the municipal side of government as the structure of school departments in Massachusetts are set by state statute.
4. State regulations, budgetary needs, personnel laws have all changed since the town charter was written. What has worked for Norwell in the past may, or may not, be the most effective form of government for the future.
5. We would be as transparent and as inclusive as possible in order to hear all points of view before deciding on our recommendations to Town Meeting.

Since our committee was formed last summer, we have been meeting with a number of Norwell boards and citizens as well as examining the structure of governments in other communities.

We are posting minutes from our meetings online so that Norwell residents can become informed as to the process we used and the information we learned prior to Town Meeting. Occasionally in the minutes there is a reference to attached material distributed. That material has been filed at the office of the Town Clerk should you be interested in greater detail.

Our meetings are posted and open to the public.

The Government Study Committee

Betsy Gordon, Chairman
Don Shute, Vice Chairman
Paula White, Secretary
Dan Collins
Eric Russo

