

Ad Hoc Government Study Committee (Westborough, MA)
Minutes of March 7, 2007

Present: John E. Arnold, Christopher Senie, Thomas Shea, Brigitte Casemyr, Sue Abladian,
Kristina Allen

Absent: Manohar Vichare

Chairman Shea called the meeting to order @ 7:10 pm and recapped his meeting with the Board of Selectmen on February 27. It had been a short meeting, the board had received the interim report and reviewed the comments by Town Counsel G. Franks. The committee is scheduled to meet with the Board of Selectmen on March 13, to answer any other question the board member may have. S. Abladian reported on the board's comments, that they were looking for solid recommendations regarding the town's reporting structure and whether to change the current Open Town Meeting structure.

T. Shea then suggested that the rest of the meeting should be used to review Town Counsel's comments, review C. Senie analysis and discuss additional guests. In addition to Town Clerk, the committee members will invite the paid, hired employees who report to an appointed board [excl. school and library]: Alma Demanche, Executive Director of the Senior Center, John Badenhause, Director of the Westborough Youth and Family Services. Paul McNulty, Director of Public Health and Frank Desiata, Recreation Director. J. Arnold commented that it was important for this committee to understand how these policy markers would be able to carry out their responsibilities under a different reporting structure. In addition, the committee is unclear why the positions of building inspector [zoning enforcement officer] and conservation commissioner are filled by one single person.

T. Shea suggested dates for the committee's future meetings:

- March 21
- April 4 in the auditorium of the Forbes Municipal Building
- April 18
- May 2
- May 16, which is week of Town Meeting

T. Shea will schedule the meeting with Town Clerk Nancy Yendriga for March 21st, then will set up meetings with board members of the 4 above departments, and finally with the directors of these departments, as follows:

April 4: committee deliberations

April 18: board members

May 2: directors

K. Allen will draft a letter explaining the purpose of the meeting with the committee, so that each participant can come prepared to address the topic of reporting structure.

The committee then discussed the timing of the final report. K. Allen made a motion to allow the committee to submit its final report in November, so there may be sufficient time scheduled for public hearing, and to allow enough time for deliberations. J. Arnold seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

Town Counsel had submitted his comments with the intention to give the committee a reference that covers statutes etc.

C. Senie discussed his review of the Ashland and Grafton charters, pertaining to boards that are not listed in their charter. One suggestion to address this potential problem [in Westborough] is to create an organizational chart that can be modified at Town Meeting, and until such modification is accepted, it is an official document. This organization chart would thus be made part of the Charter, which would help greatly to document the town's organizational structure.

K. Allen suggested that the committee schedule a public hearing to obtain more input from stakeholders.

T. Shea then asked for comments on the February 7th minutes, receiving none. J. Arnold made a motion to approve these minutes with S. Abladian seconding the motion. The motion unanimously.

K. Allen then made a motion to adjourn. J. Arnold seconded the motion. The motion passed with a unanimous vote and the meeting was adjourned at 9.05 pm.

Submitted,
Brigitte Casemyr, Secretary