

TOWN GOVERNMENT STUDY COMMITTEE

Thursday, September 26, 2013 - Minutes

6:00 p.m.

Special Meeting – Follow up to WIIA

Present: Chairperson: Phil Washko, Vice Chair: Bernie Roderick, Dick Douglass, Dan Freitas, Andy Jones (arrived at 6:03pm), Linda Meredith (arrived at 6:02pm), and Pattie Pacella

Meeting called to order by the Chairperson at 6:00 p.m. & read the recording disclaimer.

AGENDA:

Review of WIIA Public Forum:

Pattie suggested a “Did you know?” piece with the explanation of the DOR presentation; ‘simple stuff that will have audience thinking.’ Phil agreed and asked her to write up a few & send to Bernie.

Linda said there was a misconception about the hike in water & sewer rates coming from the DOR report, and it is from “A” DOR report, just not the one the Committee is working on. Linda will get the information to what report it came from, so that if that question comes up we can be accurate in relaying the correct answer.

Dan suggested adding to the website that the increase of water & sewer rates have nothing to do with our Committee.

Discussion ensued on how people felt the meeting went.

Discussion on interviews with concern to Town Manager/Administrator.

Definite “fear of change” from residents.

Discussion on differences of what exactly an Executive Secretary vs. Town Manager/Administrator does. Pattie will email Joe from DOR to ask him to give her a simple ‘bullet’ explanation of the differences, and we will include in the paperwork to hand out at the forums.

Dick mentioned that most of the Town he is researching have 5 Selectman with a Town Administrator, something to look into.

Phil talked about what our responsibilities are as this Committee, and that is what we need to portray.

Linda recommended perhaps a sign-in sheet.

Andy wasn’t sure what we would do with that information, but we should definitely ask for their name & address when they speak for the record.

Dan suggested name & precinct.

Phil is going to add to his information to make sure to ask people who speak for name & precinct.

Dick said that John Roderiques was a underutilized asset.

Phil said we needed to balance discussion and information & avoid debate.

Phil asked, what have we learned from our 1st debate?

Phil said that he had noted that perhaps we have to explain a few more minutes on the purpose of our group.

Andy said because there is no forum available for people to express their opinion, the forums are going to bring out those that just want to complain about something/anything. He said that he thought the way we did the forum went great, with many just a few minor tweaks.

Brief discussion on Town Manager responsibilities and who writes them. Phil tabled for future discussion.

Phil asked if we should debate with someone that says something negative.

Dick said if they are wrong about something, we should correct them; but if it's their opinion we should not debate.

Dick suggested pre-empting details in a press release to avoid debates.

Andy Jones suggested maybe 1 additional slide with the difference between Exc. Sec vs. Town Manager.

Phil advised the Board our next Public Forum is with the FBA – October 7, 2013.

BPW Board & Dept. of BPW – explanation of what the two are. Andy suggested maybe getting an explanation.

Dan said he will write up bullets to point out the differences.

Linda will send out a thank you note to the WIIA.

Dick said, "John Roderiques if the voice of sanity."

Phil asked if he should use the press release for the FBA forum as a more 'business' in Fairhaven related. All agreed.

Phil asked everyone to jot down a few business questions, and email them to him.

Brief discussion on by-laws with in relation to planning & what kind of information we will get from the FBA.

Bernie developed schedule with the Committee for the rest of the year. Here is the schedule:

10/3 & 10/10 (FBA)

10/17 & 10/24

11/7 & 11/21

12/5 & 12/19.

Dick went over his suggestions on how to collect & record the data received from the interviews that we are doing. Explaining his excel sheet.

Andy asked if we should be interested in divulging into something already, like IT. Everyone complains about it & that's something we can look into & start acquiring information for a recommendation.

Andy suggested at meetings we should start reviewing what we are doing. We are doing the interviews, but not discussing them. Seems like we are moving ahead without dealing with what we've already done.

Pattie suggested forming a sub-committee to analyze the interview notes & enter in to something that Dick suggested.

More to follow at next meeting.

Linda made a motion to adjourn and was seconded by Andy. The motion passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

Next Meeting next week, 10/3 at 6:00 p.m.

Respectively submitted,

Patricia A. Pacella