

TOWN GOVERNMENT STUDY COMMITTEE

Thursday, December 4, 2014 – Minutes

Meeting called to order by the Chairperson at 6:00 p.m. and the Chairperson advised there was no availability to have the meeting recorded.

Present: Chairperson: Phil Washko, Vice Chair: Bernie Roderick, Mark Badwey, Rich Griffiths, Siobhan Henebury and Pattie Pacella.

Absent: Dick Douglass

AGENDA:

Opening Public Comment:

None.

Review Research:

1. Fin Com

Discussion potential reduce size of committee to have a paying recording Secretary. Phil Washko asked to update and amend the recommendation to include “at the committee’s discretion to get a paid secretary”.

2. Term Limits

Discussion on term limits and those that it might not affect, Moderator (does not make policy), Town Meeting members and Town Clerk.

Discussion on term/years, and if our committee should put that suggestion.

Why is planning board 4 year term vs. a 3 year term?

Discussion on how it would work.

Recommendation 3 full terms retroactive with 1 year off (after 3 terms). Mark Badwey will put together language for our next meeting.

3. Town Meeting

Goal – encourage active participation, best policy making group

Potential changes we are reviewing:

1. Increasing quorum from 100 to 50% of elected.
2. Quorum votes before and after lunch.
3. Making Town Meeting members ineligible if you miss more than _ meetings
4. TM voters – employees/relatives not able to vote
5. Secret ballot

Research Items (re: Town meeting)

1. How to enforce conflict of interest?

Bernie Roderick agreed to call Plymouth and get their input as well as their input on how they have achieved quorums before and after lunch.)

2. Reducing or eliminating ‘at large’ TM members

Rich Griffiths will email everyone list for review.

3. Write own questions for potential "draft" survey to Town Meeting members. Everyone will do this.

4. What is the cost for a robocall reminder of a meeting? (Phil Washko)

5. Rich Griffiths & Phil Washko will review Towns that have made changes to Town Meeting membership.

6. Phil Washko to ask Mark Sylvia to come to next meeting for further discussion.

State recommendation 240 Town Meeting members, not much justification to reduce Town Meeting members.

Improving attendance, Rich Griffiths passed out handout

Phil Washko suggested asking Town Meeting members directly.

Mark Badwey suggested having TM members have to take out papers again to run.

In regards to missed meetings, 50% or more missed meetings should automatically withdraw the person from being a Town Meeting member.

Survey to Town Meeting members?

Mark Badwey to see if there is a coalition between signed paperwork and elected.

Special Town Meeting review on 12/9/14. The Town Administrator has been passed and signed by the Governor. It will be taken up at the STM. Tom Crotty should be at the meeting should there be any questions.

In other business, another thought for our final report would be that Town of Fairhaven consider labor contracts to be done by a professional laborer vs. the BOS.

Pattie Pacella made a motion to adjourn and was seconded by Rich Griffiths. The motion passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 7:43 p.m.

Respectively submitted,

Patricia A.. Pacella
Recording Secretary