

Town Government Study Committee  
Minutes 1/25/2017 APPROVED

Date: January 25, 2017  
Members Present: Gene Blanchard, Gay Shanahan, Kathleen Glynn, Ted Flynn,  
Anne Ward, Alex Chin  
Members Absent: Marty Desmery  
Guests: David Peck, Chair Plymouth Building Committee

The meeting was called to order at 7:10. Gay gave a summary of the last meeting's discussion regarding building committee pros and cons. The pros discussed were 1) increased transparency to the public, 2) independence of members with respect to the project, 3) defined expectations of expertise and 4) delineation of \$ size of projects for this level of attention. The cons discussed were 1) difficulty attracting qualified volunteers, 2) a sense of more/bigger government, 3) a sense that the recent building committees have done well by the town – so why change? and, 4) the reluctance to request the commitment of busy professionals if the project flow might be inconsistent.

Gene introduced David Peck, chair of Plymouth's Building Committee. David described the goals and operations of his committee, which meets 1-2 times a month. The goals of the Plymouth Building Committee are to offer a diversity of opinions, to provide advice and to provide continuity. There are 9 members appointed by the Selectmen. They are supported by Town Hall and the Procurement Officer. They work on 2-4 projects at a time typically. Plymouth used to have the disbandable Permanent School Building Committee, but they encountered problems with construction and then found the need for continuity when there was no committee left to follow up with later problems. He answered many questions about structure and methodology. He suggested making the building committee the same as the design selection committee. We thanked him for his generosity with his time and advice.

Ted showed the group a document entitled Financial Management Policies and Objectives, Finance Committee 2013. Ted said it was his understanding that these policies had in fact been passed by the BoS some years ago. They include an Audit Committee. Gay agreed to touch base with Ken McCarthy, the former FinComm Chair, about this document.

Gay reviewed the most recent email from Valerie Massard re: Community Compact which revealed that the three best practice choices selected were: Dispatch, Comprehensive Plan and our request. It is our understanding that we are waiting for the Commonwealth to initiate a signing.

The Committee's next meeting is on 2/8. The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Gay Shanahan