

Town Government Study Committee  
Minutes 4/12/2017 APPROVED

Date: April 12, 2017  
Members Present: Gene Blanchard, Gay Shanahan, Kathleen Glynn, Ted Flynn  
Members Absent: Marty Desmery, Anne Ward, Alex Chin  
Guests: Andre Martecchini

The meeting was called to order at 7:10. Andre was present to discuss his experiences on various building committees. He began with an overview of a typical process, describing the iterative nature of matching design and program elements with budgeting needs. He commented that projects take a long time, and that when a building committee is working on a project it typically meets twice a month. He emphasized the level of commitment involved.

We discussed various building committees (Public Safety, CoA, Schools, Pool, Crematory) and the processes they each experienced.

Andre stated that a standing building committee could be beneficial to Duxbury. He raised the question as to whether a standing committee would have enough people on it to handle multiple projects, as each one is quite time consuming. We discussed how projects are typically on different tracks and so would likely be in different phases (with different demands) on any given date.

Andre said that he further believes that building projects should all have a clerk-of-the-works. He believes that the oversight is necessary and should be a de facto requirement of the town's building projects. He cited the bridge as an example of a situation that may have had a better outcome with this type of oversight.

He said that any building committee should probably have an architect, a building engineer, a mechanical engineer, a civil engineer and a contractor on it. He said that Duxbury once had a Permanent Building Committee, though perhaps not authorized in the bylaws.

Andre noted that being on a building committee necessarily results in being an advocate for the project. The team develops a rhythm the professionals on the committee, by the nature of working together in this manner, need to participate as advocates. He then threw out the idea of a sort of building oversight committee. He said this type of committee might address the "silo" issue of each building project assembling its own team. We discussed what this might look like.

Andre graciously offered to return to flesh out further ideas.

The Committee's next meeting is on 5/9. The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Gay Shanahan