

Town Government Study Committee
Minutes 05/10/2017 - APPROVED

Date: May 10, 2017

Members Present: Gay Shanahan, Gene Blanchard, Kathleen Glynn, Marty Desmery, and Alex Chin.

Members Absent: Ted Flynn & Anne Ward

Gay Shanahan called the meeting to order at 7:11 pm.

The Committee proceeded to discuss the various draft sections of its report:

Information Technology:

The Committee had not addressed IT issues in the past because we were waiting for the completion of an already-commissioned IT report from a consultant. When the report was finally completed, the consultant made six recommendations centered on creating efficiencies between the Town and the schools. The first recommendation was that all IT staff should be consolidated. Both Ted Flynn and Rene Read felt strongly that consolidation needs to happen. Kathleen will take another look at the report and circulate draft language to be included in the Committee's recommendations.

Town Moderator:

The Committee discussed its recommendation that the Town Moderator's term of office should be extended beyond from one to three years. Gay noted that Moderators tend to stick around. In our report, we should mention the tenure of past moderators as further support for our recommendation.

Bylaws:

Gay noted that no substantive changes are being suggested in the "cleanup" portion of our report. But we are suggesting some big changes in specific areas so we need make a clear distinction between the substantive vs. non-substantive areas. The Committee should propose one article for cleanup, and then separate articles for each substantive change.

Reconsideration:

The Committee reviewed Gene's current draft. After discussion, the Committee decided that we should not mention specific examples, but instead we should generally discuss the fact that reconsideration has been abused in the past. Gene will take a stab at redrafting the language. Also, Gay will talk to Town Clerk about the logistics to make sure our proposed bylaw works.

Audit Committee:

In progress. We will discuss this issue at a future meeting when Ted presents a draft.

Number of Selectmen:

The Committee voted unanimously to recommend that the number of selectmen remain at three persons.

Planning Director:

The Committee discussed the fact that Rene Read announced at a recent Finance Committee meeting that the Town Planner would continue to report to the Planning Board, but supervision of her day-to-day activities would continue to be handled by him. Rene would act as a gatekeeper to handle overwhelming requests from outside committees. Marty Desmery will draft his section, and then Gene and Marty will talk to interested parties – e.g., Rene, Valerie and maybe Scott Casagrande – to solicit their input.

Building Committee:

Discussion of meeting with Andre about the pros and cons of a permanent Building Committee. General discussion about permanent vs. ad hoc committee.

The Committee unanimously approved the minutes of the meeting held on April 12, 2017 approved unanimously, except Marty Desmery abstained because he was not present.

The next meeting will be held on June 14, 2017.

Meeting adjourned at 8:57 pm