

**Town Government Study Committee
Meeting Minutes
November 19, 2018
7:00 P.M.**

Commission Members	Other
Kristen Balash ----- Present	
Chris Cleverdon ----- Present	
Rob Garrity ----- Present	
Jonathan Smith ----- Present	
Anthony Turi ----- Present	

The duly posted meeting of the Town Government Study Committee convened at 7:12 P.M. in Room 204 at the Norfolk Town Hall.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Committee member introductions
 - The committee members took turns introducing themselves and gave some of their background to the rest of the committee. Mr. Smith and Mr. Garrity are both former select board members. Mr. Turi is currently the Assistant Town Clerk and Records Access Officer and grew up in town. Mrs. Cleverdon is a longtime resident and has been active in the town for many years. Mrs. Balash is newer to town but has been active in the town and on local issues.

- Election of committee chair & secretary
 - Jonathan Smith was elected as Chairman
 - Anthony Turi was elected as Secretary

- Open Discussion
 - The committee decided that Jonathan Smith would give a brief 2-3 minute speech at the Fall Town Meeting about our committee, its objectives and that we are looking for 2 more members
 - The committee had an open discussion about how our committee should operate and its objective.
 - The committee agreed that public participation in this process is very important and we should hold public forums to seek their input.
 - Communication between the town and residents seems to be an issue. Not enough information is easily available. People don't know how to locate town resources or have an avenue to ask questions about how the town operates, or how does Town Meeting work?

- There was discussion about splitting our committee mission up. Take on some easy, “low-hanging fruit” changes and updates to our town bylaws while simultaneously studying and researching deeper, institutional changes in the governments structure.
- Some possible areas to look at reforming include:
 - Creation of a charter for the town to operate under
 - Increasing the Select Board to 5 members.
 - Change from Open Town Meeting to a Representative Town Meeting
 - Creating a “public information officer” position to coordinate town communications
 - Mixed elected and appointed boards, especially in Land Use Department
 - A recall provision for elected officials

UPCOMING MEETINGS:

Wednesday December 12, 2018 – 7pm – Town Hall Rm 204

Wednesday January 16, 2018 – 7pm – Town Hall Rm 204

Public Forum - Wednesday January 23, 2018 – 7pm – Town Hall Room 124

The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 P.M.



Anthony Tari, Clerk