

**Town Government Study Committee
Meeting Minutes
February 20, 2019
7:00 P.M. – Room 124**

Commission Members	Other
Kristen Balash ----- Present	David Rosenberg ----- resident
Jeff Chalmers -----Present	Donna Jones ----- resident
Rob Garrity -----Present	
Anthony Kennedy ----- Absent	
Chairman Jonathan Smith ----- Present	
Secretary Anthony Turi ----- Present	

The meeting was originally posted to be held in Room 204 but was moved to Room 124, both within Town Hall. Signs giving notice of the location change were posted on the entrances to Town Hall and on the door to Room 204.

The duly posted meeting of the Town Government Study Committee convened at 7:04 P.M. in Room 124 at the Norfolk Town Hall. Rob Garrity arrived at 7:22.

The minutes of the January 16 & February 6 were approved unanimously.

The committee discussed our invitation by the Senior Center to hold a public forum at the Senior Center. This would be a daytime event and help reach residents who might not normally come to a meeting held downtown. Anthony T will reach out to Sherry Norman, the COA director to setup a date and time.

The committee decided to participate in the Community Volunteer Fair being held on March 31. This event can be used to advertise our committee and our mission, get more members of our committee, and help advertise other open volunteer positions within the Town. We will determine staffing at our 3/6 meeting.

Committee members will be reaching out to other groups and organizations like NCL & the Lions Club to help get the word out about our committee.

We reviewed the results of the online survey that Kristen created. A general theme seemed to be the need for better communication between the Town and the residents. Another topic that came up was the lack of information about the structure and areas of responsibility of town boards & committees. This brought up the topic of creating YouTube videos for NCTV about the town government, boards and committees and other topics important for residents.

The committee was updated on the issues we are currently researching.

- Recall provision – Kristen gave us a brief update on this issue. We are still researching this topic before we will take any action on it. A potential variation on a traditional recall provision would be to have some sort of attendance & implied resignation policy in place. That would allow the removal of elected board members who do not attend meetings.
- Term Limits – Jonathan Smith gave an update on this issue. Attleboro’s Mayor is talking about limiting their mayoral terms. We discussed possibly limiting any term limits to just the top 3 boards (Selectmen, School, Planning)

- Expansion of elected boards – Rob G gave an update on this issue. His research shows that very few Advisory/Finance Committees are elected. Most are appointed. Rob and Kristen are going to reach out to former members and the current moderator to inquire about the Advisory Boards workload & size.
- Appointment reporting by Selectmen; openings, breakdown by gender/race/etc. – Rob G let us know that this type of reporting doesn't seem to exist on the municipal level here in Massachusetts.
- Bylaw Cleanup – Anthony T gave a brief update. Cleanup project is going well. He is looking to finish up the changes within the next week. Possible to have it complete and put on the warrant for this Springs town meeting.

The committee discussed making our online survey available in a printed form so people who don't have the ability, or don't want to participate electronically can still provide us feedback

The committee voted unanimously to develop 4 warrant articles for the Spring Town Meeting.

- In the Town Bylaws, change "Board of Selectmen" to "the Select Board"
- In the Town Bylaws, change male/gender specific pronouns to gender neutral ones
- Town bylaw cleanup article
- Call for the town to do a staffing study
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Anthony T will contact the BoS office to get on the March 5th BoS agenda to discuss these articles.

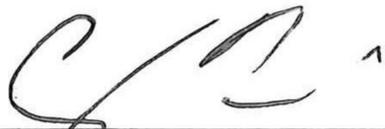
David Rosenberg asked the committee to work on increasing citizen participation and engagement with their Town Government.

UPCOMING MEETINGS:

Regular Meeting – Wednesday March 6, 2019 – 7pm

Community Volunteer Fair – Sunday March 31, 2019 12pm - 3pm

Senior Center Public Forum – TBD



Anthony Turi, Clerk