



GOVERNMENT STUDY COMMITTEE MEETING
Minutes of the November 14, 2001 Meeting
Meeting Room 7:00 PM

Present: Members George Bailey, David Hearne, Leonard Segal, Patricia Zlotin,
Anne Carney

Absent: David Fixler, Dennis Friedman, and Michael Schachter

Chairman Anne Carney called the meeting to order at 7:40 PM. Chairman Anne Carney asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the meeting of October 11, 2001. After discussion the following italicized words were inserted after the phrase "open town meeting is preferable" *for favorable disposition of major school warrant articles*. George Bailey amended page 2 by changing the phrase "representative town government" to *the new town council*.

Anne Carney passed out a copy of a letter sent to her from the Town Moderator George Donovan in which he sets forth some procedures to be used at town meetings that could be sent out with the warrant articles. She also passed out an example of a spreadsheet that was used at a recent Easton special town meeting to compare Easton spending to surrounding towns.

The next item discussed was Pat Zlotin's spreadsheet showing her findings on forms of government and elections held before or after the annual election. Her survey was conducted on communities with similar numbers of voters. The majority of these towns have open town meeting and most of the towns hold their elections before town meeting.

Richard Leary, former Town Administrator for the Town of Brookline, came in at 8:00 PM to give us his observations concerning cooperation between the Town and School sectors. Mr. Leary's presentation focused on the budget process but also mentioned that building up a sense of trust helped the sides on other issues as well. One observation he made was that all of the Town's administrative offices were located in one building and this meant that people saw each other on a regular basis and got to know each other in a way that couldn't have happened if they were in different buildings. He mentioned that Sharon's current superintendent of school's worked in Brookline for several years and was familiar with the idea of the town and schools working closely together.

After Mr. Leary answered several of the committee's questions, the Chairman thanked him for taking the time to meet with them.

The committee decided that it would like to interview Dr. Jackson and Ben Puritz. Mrs. Carney will try to set up a meeting for the middle of December.

With no further business to discuss, Anne called for adjournment. The motion was seconded by George and voted unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 9:35

amc