

Minutes of the Government Study Committee Meeting October 14, 2004

Present: Anne Carney, David Fixler, Andy Nebenzahl, Gloria Rose, Pat Zlotin

Minutes of the June 17 meeting were approved.

Anne was elected chair with Pat agreeing to do some of the administrative tasks.

Planning Board and Personnel Committees have not appointed new members. Sam Zisblatt had to resign due to his work schedule. Anne will contact Marlene to let her know of the vacancies.

The Committee reviewed its charge and agreed that looking at the form of government is within the original intent of the article that formed the committee in 1990. Anne will ask to be on the Selectmen's agenda as soon as possible to discuss this with them.

Anne found an article from Amherst MA. In 2002 their Charter Commission looked at their form of government and suggested a council form. Pat will follow up to see what, if any, action was subsequently taken by Amherst as well as distribute copies of the report to the committee.

The committee decided that it is important to make a recommendation for the form of government and hopes to do so at its next meeting. If the vote is to recommend a change seek for a vote at an election from the voters to see if there is support for a recommendation that changes the current form of government. Gloria reported that we could not hold an election co-incidental with the November 2, 2004 Presidential election so the next opportunity might be in the Spring annual town election.

Concern was raised about the timing of the upcoming Fall Special Town Meeting. It was suggested that the date be set in the Spring to allow all Boards and Committees to know the time line so they can complete their work in time for the warrant. It was also mentioned that some of the articles planned for next week's STM could have been held until the May ATM as the Fall meeting was to be dedicated to planning issues as well as any critical items that could not wait for Spring. Some of the articles for next week do not pass that 'test'.

The GSC should again recommend that the Selectmen host a meeting of all Boards and Committees once a year to coordinate efforts. There is some concern that capital projects are not being considered as a whole and that some boards and committees may not be aware of the needs of others.

Next meeting: October 26, 7:30 PM at Town Hall.