

SUBJECT TO APPROVAL

Meeting Date: Monday, February 24, 2020
6:00 pm

Meeting Place: Town Campus, Hammonasset Room

AD HOC Government Study Committee Special Meeting Minutes

Committee member Jean Ferris called the Special Meeting of Feb. 24, 2020 to order at 6:00 pm

1. Pledge of Allegiance
2. Approval of prior minutes moved by Peter Roos, seconded by Lauren Noble. No discussion. Motion passed unanimously. Helen Burland abstained.
3. Public Comment: Gus Horvath requested that he have the opportunity to comment when item 6 was discussed.

OLD BUSINESS

4. Presentation and review of the various forms of government, as researched by the Committee:

The committee members in attendance, Lauren Noble, Peter Roos, Jean Ferris and Helen Burland (Bob Reinhardt, Leo White, and Robert F. Polito, Jr., excused) reviewed the reports prepared by the committee members on the Town Meeting Form; Representative Town Meeting Form, Council-Manager Form and the Mayor-Council Form. The reports are attached to these minutes for the record. Discussion focused on elements of the different forms that were worthy of further discussion, such as increased involvement of the electorate, balance of authority between executive and legislative responsibilities, integration with elected boards, role of town administrator/manager.

5. Review “areas of analysis” in preparation of the Government questionnaire for the town and for town staff leadership:

Moved by Helen Burland and seconded by Jean Ferris to table the document “Areas of Analysis”. Motion was approved unanimously.

Discussion on how to get feedback from the public, town employees and former members of boards and commissions with an emphasis on qualitative input.

6. Review Madison’s Town Charter in detail and create a list of questions or clarifications for review with Town Officials:

Gus Horvath presented a document for the Committee to consider that summarized some issues with the most recent approved changes to the Charter (2006). Motion by Peter Roos, and seconded by Jean Ferris to accept the report from Gus Horvath for consideration by the Committee. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion by Peter Roos, and seconded by Helen Burland to table the request to submit questions regarding the Charter. Discussion focused on the premature nature of this action. It was felt that this task may be more appropriately addressed once the research and recommendations regarding the Forms of Government are further developed. Motion passed unanimously.

7. Review schedule of town/City visits, as arranged by Lauren Rhines.

Schedule was not available for review by the Committee.

8. Confirm the Committee will meet with the Board of Selectmen, scheduled for March 23, 2020.

No discussion.

NEW BUSINESS

9. Public Comment - none

Action Items for next meeting:

- a. Discuss questions and/or areas to be explored by survey(s).
- b. Meet with former First Selectmen to get their input.
- c. Discuss formation of subcommittees that will meet with other towns to secure more detailed information on Forms of Government.
- d. Develop a list of elements from the different Forms of Government that are either seen as favorable or unfavorable.

10. Adjournment.

Moved by Helen Burland and seconded by Lauren Noble to adjourn the meeting at 7:50pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Helen Burland
Committee Member