

Minutes
July 16, 2019 Meeting
Town Government Study Committee
Milton, MA

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Neely at 7:05 PM in the Baker Conference Room at Town Hall.

Present were Richard Neely, John Cronin, Marvin Gordon and Peter Mullin.

The Committee voted unanimously to approve the minutes of its June 11, 2019 meeting. The Committee also agreed to defer consideration of the minutes of its May 22, 2019 meeting.

The Chairman reported on his discussions with Mike Zullas, Select Board Chair. Right now, it looks like there will not be a Fall Town Meeting. There are budget issues and it is more likely that the Select Board will want to wait until January or February for a Special Town Meeting. As to the issue of whether the question for changing from an elected to an appointed Treasurer should be put on the ballot for another vote, the Chairman reported that the Select Board is the only ones who can put a question on the Annual Town Election ballot. They do not need another Town Meeting article and vote to do so. They can approve the question on their own. It is unclear how many of the Select Board members support submitting the question to the voters again. Among other issues is whether the Committee which supported an appointed Treasurer last April is still active and would support the question again next April. The turnout of voters at this year's Annual Town Election, when the question was defeated, was only 13.8%.

The Chair also reported that he had received an email from the Chair of the Select Board that they would be considering the Assistant Town Administrator position which was funded in the override, but never filled. The discussion may focus on whether that position should be held for a Chief Financial Officer position, or whether it should include other administration duties, including supervision of Human Resources.

The Chair reported that he had been informed that the School Committee was inclined to support the building of another elementary school, to deal with the Town's rising school population, although the support was not unanimous and there was no consensus as to where to build the school. The Chair also reported that the Murphy Hesse law firm had been reappointed as the Town's Legal Counsel, following John Flynn's retirement.

As to the Park Department, and possible consolidation with some other department in the Town, Chair Neely reported that that Chair Zullas had told him that the Select Board may support a consolidation. Chair Neely told Mr. Zullas that he thinks the Select Board and the Board of Park Commissioners should meet and go on record regarding the issue.

Chair Neely reported that he had not heard back from the Planning Board regarding whether the Town should amend its Bylaws to create the position of Alternate Member of the Planning

Board, to be available on special permit matters when one of the regular members is recused or misses two or more meetings.

The Committee agreed on September 18, 2019 at 7:00pm for its next meeting.

The Committee voted to adjourn at 7:50pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Peter Mullin
September 18, 2019