

Town Government Study Committee Meeting Minutes - Milton, MA

September 18, 2019

Meeting called to order by Chairman Neely at 7:07 PM in the Small conference room at Town Hall.

Members Present: Chair Richard Neely, John Cronin, Marvin Gordon, Peter Mullin, Kathryn Fagan

Amended Minutes of July 16, 2019 approved 4-0-1 (K.Fagan abstained.)

Minutes of May 25, 2019 deferred.

Discussion of Possible Consolidation of some duties of Parks Dept., DPW, Cemetery, and Consolidated Facilities departments.

Chair Neely reported that he was informed that the Selectboard voted at a recent meeting to ask the TGSC to review options regarding the possible consolidation of the Park's department with other departments. There was no other information sent to Chair Neely of that Selectboard discussion or further explanation of this vote by the Selectboard .

Note: The TGSC is set to "sunset" on November 30th, 2019 and there is no Fall Town meeting scheduled this year that could change the term of the current TGSC since the term was set by Town Meeting and can only be changed by Town Meeting.

Member questions/comments included :

- Length of time required if this project were to be accepted
- Historical context for creation of Park Commission and DPW to understand if consolidation is even possible.
- Cost savings to consolidation
- Whether Consolid. Facilities and or DPW Dept could /should take on some duties of other departments.

Member John Cronin then provided some historic info regarding the Park Commissions Enabling Act and Public Works Enabling Act that were both accepted by Milton and pointed out that both Acts seem to allow for DPW to take on work of another dept. and that Park's Commission Enabling Act does not mention "recreation".

Members agreed that this project , if it is , in fact, an assignment to fully explore all aspects of consolidation of Park's department duties , would likely take up considerably more time for the TGSC than the time left in the current TGSC term.

RESOLVED : The members of the TGSC present asked Chair Neely to speak with TA Mike Dennehy and /or Selectboard Chair Mike Zullas to find out more about this "assignment" and remind them of the term limit of the current TGSC. and to report his findings back to the TGSC.

Financial Management Project:

Members discussed the possibility of a second ballot question regarding the Treasurer's position becoming an appointed position. Town Counsel rendered a legal opinion that a second ballot question could be put on the ballot without the need to go back to Town Meeting for another vote. Decision on whether or not to place this question on the ballot again will be made by the Selectboard.

Fire Station Needs Study Committee Update:

Chairman Neely reported that Brian Walsh reports on the progress of the Fire Needs Study Committee as follows: Possible ambulance bays are to be built and rented by the ambulance service which has the contract with the Town. Members discussed possible pros and cons which might arise with this plan but the TGSC has not been asked to render an opinion at this time.

Planning Board - Site Design Board:

Chairman Neely reported on the progress of the possible site design board referral to the TGSC. NO action has been taken. Member John Cronin suggested that Planning Dept Director Bill Clark could do a quick survey of his PB statewide association before any further action could be taken.

Planning Board – Associate Member for Special Permits:

Chairman Neely reported on the Planning Board Associate Member project. The question will be on the Warrant of the January 2020 Town meeting and the Planning Board will ask Town Meeting to approve the position under the following terms: Appointment would be made by a supermajority of the Planning Board (4 of 5 members) and the appointment could be for a period up to 3 years. Appointee – referred to as an "Associate Member" can only vote on Special Permits. The Associate member must attend all special permit meetings from start of discussion whether ultimately voting or not.

Sunset of TGSC:

As TGSC will "sunset" at the end of November, 2019, Member John Cronin suggested that a joint meeting of the TGSC, Selectboard and Moderator be planned and posted for the TGSC in November in order for the TGSC to provide a summary of the committee's accomplishments. Other TGSC members agreed and Chair Neely will reach out to all parties to sync schedules.

The Committee agreed that the next meeting of the TGSC will be Tuesday October 22, 2019 at 7 PM at Milton Town Hall.

The Committee voted to adjourn the meeting at 8:21 PM.

Respectfully submitted, Kathryn Fagan on October 19, 2019