



Minutes of the Government Study Committee

Date: Tuesday, January 15, 2019

Place: Ipswich Town Manager's Conference Room.

Time: 7:00 PM

Attendees: Gary Champion, Craig Saline, David Standley, Diane Young. (Quorum of membership present)

Observers and Participants: Planning Board members Keith Anderson and Heidi Paek, Asst. Town Planner Ethan Parsons, resident Phil Goguen

Meeting commenced at 7:00 pm, with Craig Saline as chair and David Standley as secretary.

Citizen Queries: Mr. Goguen inquired about filing procedures for citizens' petitions at town meetings.

Introductions: None

Approval of Minutes: The draft GSC minutes of the January 8, 2019 meeting were approved without amendment by unanimous vote on the motion of Standley seconded by Young.

Old Business: The Committee continued the development of its recommendation concerning the 2018 citizens' petition that the Planning Board be elected rather than appointed. The report of Diane Young on practices and procedures of other comparable municipalities and the pros and cons of electing or appointing planning Board members was reviewed and discussed with the Committee by the Planning Board and Planning Department representatives present. The Committee concluded that significant advantages in and for Ipswich had been found with the current practice of the Town Manager appointing the Planning Board members and would be expected to continue, and felt there was no justification or advantage to the town of changing that procedure.

New Business: The Committee debated its next steps in regard to the Planning Board issue. Since the citizens petition was defeated at the 2018 Special Town Meeting, did the GSC need to take any action? It was pointed out that the defeat of the citizens' petition at the STM may have been influenced by statements in the debate that the matter would be referred to the GSC. The resolution was that the Committee would report its opinion to the SelectBoard. The draft by the Chair of the proposed presentation of Committee proposals and recommendations to the SelectBoard at its January 28 meeting was discussed. Champion was delegated responsibility of editing and redrafting that presentation.

Next meeting: Tuesday, February 5, 2019 at 7 PM, location TBD.

Adjournment: There being no further business, on motion of Standley seconded by Young the meeting was adjourned at 9:15 PM by unanimous vote.

Respectfully submitted,

David Standley, Secretary