

Government Study Committee Minutes
March 10, 2020

Present: Gary Champion; Craig Saline, chair; Diane Young.
Absent: Scott Glosserman; Tammy Jones.

Call to order: 7:04pm.

Citizens queries: None.

Minutes: The minutes of February 11, 2020 were approved as amended.

Waterways article: Saline and Champion will attend the Select Board's second warrant hearing on March 16 to answer any questions on the proposed bylaw Article III Waterways Advisory Committee, Sub Section 118-9 Appointment and Charge. Saline is waiting to hear back from FinComm about presenting on March 19. Young reported that the Planning Board declined a presentation. Champion will reach out to the School Committee chair. Young will present the article at Town Meeting.

The article establishing appointment and charge is the first step. The second (and possibly third) step will address 1) who creates and approves waterways regulations and 2) removing the current bylaws relating to waterways now that waterways regulations are maintained on the Harbormaster's section of the Town website.

The authoring of the regulations has varied in the past: Town Meeting, by way of bylaw; Harbormaster asking Select Board to approve, Harbormaster on his own. GSC recommends that approval authority lie with the Select Board. A possible parallel is the Shellfish Advisory Board. Highway and parking regulations are also approved by the Select Board. Champion spoke to Kristen Usterwick of the Urban Harbors Institute. She could not recall any towns in which the Harbormaster has regulatory authority. The four principles behind this second step are clarity, checks and balances, accountability, and citizen participation.

Saline consulted with the Chair of the Waterways Advisory Committee about starting work on the second step. WAC chair prefers to wait until the first step bylaw is approved by Town Meeting.

Role of Town Manager: GSC will next take up the role of the Town Manager. Saline has asked Tony Marino to consider if, after being in the job two years, he has any changes he wants GSC to look at. GSC will ask the same of the Select Board.

Other business: Saline will follow up on getting the Committee's purpose added to the GSC section of the Town's website. Champion distributed a draft letter about Town Meeting warrants being "under the hand of the Select Board." It was agreed that he will send to the media under his own name, not that of the GSC.

Next meeting date: Tuesday, April 14, 2020 [cancelled].

Adjournment: 8:40pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane J. Young, Secretary