

# **FOR INFORMATION ONLY - UNOFFICIAL ROUGH DRAFT Minutes not reviewed or approved until next GSC meeting which is not yet scheduled**

**Government Study Committee Minutes**  
**June 9, 2021**

**Present:** Gary Champion; Craig Saline, chair; Tammy Jones, Diane Young. Also present: Dan O'Leary.

**Call to order:** 7:00pm. The meeting was conducted on Zoom.

**Citizens queries:** None.

**Minutes:** The minutes of May 10, 2021 were accepted by unanimous vote.

## **1. Proposed bylaw on Government Study Committee**

Moved by Young, seconded by Jones to approve the document entitled "SB proposal CAS edited 5/10/21."

Champion opposed for a number of reasons: information from the State Ethics Commission indicating that it is not lawful for the Select Board to appoint one of its members to GSC (MGL 268A); Select Board membership and appointments give that Board undue influence over GSC composition; a false preemption that Select Board members have a better understanding of government structure than GSC members do; an unmanageable workload for a Select Board member to also be a member of GSC; lack of reports aside from every ten years; lack of clarity about who GSC makes annual recommendations or reports to, or how matters will be referred to GSC by Town Meeting; a conflict with separation of powers if the Select Board has control over what Town Meeting may legislate.

The motion passed 3-1: Champion, no; Jones, yes; Saline, yes; Young, yes.

Jones will get back to Saline about what the proper procedure is to get the revised proposal before the Select Board and the other bodies.

## **2. Committee resignations**

Jones will resign effective June 24. Having been elected Chair of the Select Board, her time is more limited.

Young will resign after sending the minutes of tonight's meeting to the Chair. The approval of the GSC bylaw is a good stopping point for her.

Saline and Champion agreed that a committee of two is not workable. Jones expects that the passage of the GSC bylaw in the fall will lead to a formalized new membership and new directions.

Jones left the meeting at 7:30pm.

Saline led a discussion with observer O'Leary about the meeting and the work of GSC.

Champion said that those voting in the minority always have the right to express their views.

**Next meeting date:** none

**Adjournment:** 7:47pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane J. Young, Secretary

--

---

Diane J. Young

text: 978-361-9625

voice: 978-356-2938

**SB proposal CAS edited 5/10/21**

**Article #:** To see if the Town will vote to amend Chapter 35 of the Town Bylaws (“Town Officers, Boards, Committees and Commissions”) by adding a new Article VIII, “Town Government Study Committee” as set forth below, and by renumbering the existing Articles VIII and IX accordingly, or take any other action relative thereto.

**ARTICLE V - Town Government Study Committee**

**§ 35-35. Establishment; membership.**

A Town Government Study Committee shall be constituted and undertake the responsibilities set forth in § 35-36. The Committee shall consist of seven members, including one Select Board member or designee, one Finance Committee member or designee, and one School Committee member or designee, each to be designated by their respective boards or committees, and four at-large members appointed by the Select Board for terms of three years.

**§ 35-36. Responsibilities.**

A. Decennial Review of Charter and Bylaws. Beginning in the year 2024 and every ten years thereafter, the Committee shall review the structure of Town government as defined by the Town Charter and any applicable special acts and bylaws relating to governmental structure. The Committee shall submit such recommendations to the Select Board, after conducting a public hearing thereon, by the end of the calendar year. The committee will make a report of prioritized recommendations for appropriate actions to the Town Meeting concerning amendments to the Charter, or such special acts and bylaws, or other recommendations it deems advisable.

B. Annual Review. The Committee may also make annual recommendations or reports on such matters pertaining to the Charter and bylaws as they pertain to the structure of Town government. These matters shall be referred to it by the Town Meeting or by the Select Board for appropriate actions.

**§ 35-37. Quorum.**

A quorum of the Town Government Study Committee shall consist of no fewer than four members.