



Minutes of the Government Study Committee

Date: Tuesday, July 2, 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). Scott Glosserman participated informally by phone

Observers and Participants: None

Meeting commenced at 7:13 pm, with Craig Saline as chair and David Standley as secretary.

Citizen Queries: None

Introductions: None

Approval of Minutes: The draft minutes of June 11, 2019 as amended by Champion were approved on motion of Young seconded by Champion by unanimous vote.

Old Business: The Chair reported that Select Board member Tammy Jones will be the Board liaison with the GSC.

There will be a Select Board meeting on 7/15 followed by a Tri Board meeting on 8/13 that will initiate the long-range planning process. That meeting will also hear the report of the consultant to the School Committee on management of infrastructure and inventory.

The Finance Committee is proposing a financial model, concerning which the GSC wondered about its effect on Proposition 2 ½ levy limit when a bond is paid off, and about DOR requirements and approvals.

The Warrant for the Special Town Meeting will be opened on August 5 for a period of 2 weeks. The Committee is concerned with its ability to recommend STM warrant articles within that window.

New Business:

Next Steps

With respect to any proposed changes in the structure of Ipswich government, the GSC confirmed its position in support of the current “strong manager” form of our government. Champion reported on his discussion with the Town Manager regarding the status of submittals to the General Court of articles approved by the 2019 ATM, all of which appear to be in process. Saline reported on his discussion with the Town Manager, following on his discussion with the Planning Director, regarding forward movement on the long-range planning process. Ethan Parsons suggested the GSC query the several town departments about their long-term spending plans. It appears that the GSC will need to work with the Select Board on development of the long-range planning process, and to get its views on suggested next steps to be taken by the Committee. It seems most appropriate to first convey the Committee’s priorities to the Select Board liaison. The Chair, in that meeting, will convey to her the Committee’s positions on the strong manager form of government, its status as an independent body, and some 10 to 15 topics on which her reaction will be sought. (These topics will be developed by the Chair from the prior suggestions of Champion and Young) It is desired that the GSC meet with the Select Board on July 15.

Waterways Advisory Committee

Champion led an extended discussion of the historic and current situation regarding town management of its waterways. The current WAC is comprised of one IYC member, two members of the Ipswich Outboard Club, and four interested citizens, but in Champion’s opinion has no effective role. He urged the Committee at its next meeting to consider a warrant article for the STM as prepared by him to substantially restructure management of the Ipswich waterways. As a result of this discussion, the GSC (the Chair plus one or two members) should meet with Police Chief Paul Nikas.

Next meeting: Tuesday, August 6, 2019 at 7 PM, location TBD.

Adjournment: There being no further business, on motion of Champion seconded by Young the meeting was adjourned at 9:16 PM by unanimous vote.

Respectfully submitted,

David Standley, Secretary