

**Government Study Committee Minutes  
August 11, 2020**

**Present:** Gary Champion; Tammy Jones; Craig Saline, chair; Diane Young.

**Call to order:** 7:08pm.

**Citizens queries:** None.

**Minutes:** The minutes of March 10, 2020 were accepted.

**Waterways article:** Saline will present the proposed warrant article on Waterways Advisory Committee appointments to FinComm this evening. The only change made from the Annual Meeting submission form is the date. Champion will give a courtesy call to the School Committee, and Young to the Planning Board, to see if either wants a presentation.

**GSC relationship to Select Board:** The Committee discussed the use of the phrase “*independent* Town resource” in its definition of the GSC’s purpose; the Select Board’s control over the warrant; who has the authority to dissolve committees; the relevance of the GSC having been established originally by Town Meeting; the GSC’s role as advisory rather than advocacy; and a potential change to the Bylaws asserting the independence of the GSC.

Discussion referred to a memo from Town Counsel dated July 16, 2020 on “Under the Hands of the Select Board,” which had been forwarded by the Town Manager to members of the GSC.

A motion was made by Champion to send a communication to the Select Board that if the Select Board seeks to have authority over the Government Study Committee and over the Town Meeting warrant articles, that they ask Town Meeting for those authorities. Motion not seconded; motion failed.

**Next topic:** There was consensus that the next focus should be the role and responsibilities of the Town Manager, as stated in Charter sections 8, 11, 20, and 22. Saline asked Committee members to review that language in preparation for the next meeting.

**Next meeting date:** Tuesday, September 8, 2020 [postponed to September 30].

**Adjournment:** 8:28pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane J. Young, Secretary