

## **Government Study Committee Minutes January 21, 2021**

**Present:** Gary Champion; Craig Saline, chair; Tammy Jones, Diane Young. Also present: Chris Murray, Bill Fabri, Diane Halverson, Scott Finlay, Justin Wright, Scott Goodwin, Jeff Cann. Some members of the Committee were unable to log in with video, but participated by phone.

**Call to order:** 7:20pm.

**Citizens queries:** Justin Wright (7 Dartmouth Rd) is looking for GSC minutes. Saline will email him about where to find them on the town website.

**Minutes:** The minutes of December 10, 2020 and January 7, 2021 were accepted.

**Waterways regulations:** The Committee continued discussion of the Harbormaster's proposed bylaw for Annual Town Meeting, based on the Q&A with the Harbormaster and Town Counsel at its January 7, 2021 meeting.

Young said she would be suggesting that GSC propose that mooring regulations are approved by the Select Board, because they deal with fees, approval of regulations by one person is not best practice, and the Harbormaster has said he takes no position on who reviews the regulations. Champion supported, for the sake of transparency and alignment with Shellfish regulations, and will recommend adding a sentence to the bylaw: "The Select Board approves waterways regulations."

Saline presented recommendations he would like the GSC to make:

1. Rename *Harbormaster Office Rules & Regulations of the Waterways* to *Harbormaster Office Mooring Rules & Regulations* (requires changing proposed Article 3 Section 118-9 and wording on the Harbormaster's webpage).
2. Provide a link to Bylaw 118 Boat and Waterways on the Harbormaster's webpage.
3. Add a reference to the *Harbormaster Office Mooring Rules & Regulations* to the proposed Bylaw.

Consider two suggested changes (below) to the Bylaw that provide for the Select Board to sponsor public hearings that require elected town officials to host a public televised forum dedicated to proposed changes to waterways bylaws, mooring rules and regulations.

4. Suggested addition to proposed *Bylaw 118 Section XX Public Hearing required*:  
"Proposed changes to By Law 118 Boats and Waterways by the Harbormaster to Town Meeting require the Select Board to first hold a Public Hearing - per General Bylaws-Administrative- Article XI, section 15-13. Public Hearing required".
5. Suggested addition to proposed Bylaw 118:  
"Proposed changes to Harbormaster Office Mooring Rules and Regulations by the Harbormaster require the Select Board to first hold a Public Hearing – per General By Laws – Administrative Article IX, Section 15-13. Public Hearing required."

Jones responded that a warrant hearing for changes to a bylaw is sufficient, and that perhaps the Waterways Advisory Committee would be a better venue for a hearing for changes to Mooring Rules and Regulations.

Jones moved to send a list of our suggestions to Chief Nikas and the Waterways Advisory Committee, unvoted on and unweighted, that they can consider. Young seconded. The motion passed, 3-1.

Champion moved that the GSC make a recommendation that Bylaw 118-9 be amended to include "The Select Board approves waterways and mooring regulations. Young seconded. The motion failed, 2-2.

Saline will write up the suggestions and the split vote on Champion's motion, and send it to the Committee for edits, then on to the Harbormaster.

Next meeting: Tuesday, February 16, 2021.

Adjournment: 9:35pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane J. Young, Secretary