

## **Government Study Committee Minutes** **April 7, 2021**

**Present:** Gary Champion; Craig Saline, chair; Tammy Jones, Diane Young. Also present: Tom Burgess, Bill Fabri.

**Call to order:** 7:03pm. The meeting was conducted on Zoom, with Champion on audio only after 7:50pm.

**Citizens queries:** None.

**Minutes:** The minutes of March 2, 2021 were accepted with amendments.

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

A revised version of the warrant article proposed by the Select Board was discussed.

Recommendations were:

- That the Finance Committee and School Committee appoint one of their own members *or a designee*
- That the decennial review of the charter, etc. (Sec. 35-36A) result in a report to Town Meeting of recommended actions—prioritized topics that need addressing
- That the referral process (Sec. 35-36B) lead to development of actual charter or bylaw proposals

The concern was raised if Select Board or School Committee members have too many other obligations to be full participants in GSC work with other members. A question was raised on how Town Meetings would refer charter or bylaw subjects to the GSC.

Champion presented draft language for Jones or other Select Board member to send to the State Ethics Commission to determine if it is lawful for a Select Board member to be appointed to the GSC. He explained that his communication with the State Ethics Commission indicated there is a conflict with MGL 268A. Jones did not agree with this recommendation. No action was taken.

Saline will draft a revision of the warrant article and circulate it to GSC. He will give a heads-up to the Finance Committee and the School Committee. GSC's final edits will be presented to the Select Board after Annual Town Meeting. He recommended that, if a ruling on whether a Select Board member can sit on GSC is desired, Town Counsel be asked for an opinion first.

### **Appointing authority of Select Board and Town Manager**

The Committee reviewed a chart of appointments. If we were starting from scratch, what should be the criteria for which positions/committees are appointed by whom? Consider categories, like public safety, finance, etc., or employment, policy-related, adjudicatory, operational. To be continued at next meeting.

**Next meeting date:** May 5, 2021.

**Adjournment:** 8:57pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane J. Young, Secretary