

Town Meeting Working Group (TMWG) Minutes

Monday June 27, 2016 7:00 PM

Town Hall Room 14

Members Present: Bill Buckley, Kim Smith, Mike Noferi, Mike Visconte , Paul Malnati , Peter Scandone, Reno DeLuzio, Richard Heller and Steve Trettel.

Members Absent: Beverly Swymer and Tom Harmon

Meeting was called to order by Peter at 7:10 PM followed by introductions.

Steve kicked off the meeting by explaining how the TMWG came about through the efforts of the Citizens for Milford Committee. The TMWG is developed as an Ad Hoc informed committee that will periodically report to the Board of Selectmen.

The Mission Statement was agreed upon by the members of this Committee:

The objective of the TMWG is to evaluate the entire process and to improve upon the methods of presenting information to Milford residents while maintaining a pleasant and informative forum to hear their concerns and opinions. It is essential that precinct members have ample opportunity to understand the issues and be better prepared to make rational decisions.

Agenda Items

Housekeeping:

- Quorum - 2/3's of total members in attendance.
- Motion – Quorum and majority required.
- Minutes – Volunteers /Rotate among members. To be published on the CFM website.
- Monthly meetings will be held on the last Monday of each month in Room 14 at 7:00 PM.
- The Chairmen is responsible for keeping order by having one person speaking at a time.

Peter passed out various articles and research materials that was provided by Jose Costa along with a list of proposed reforms by Reno.

Round Table Comments and discussion:

Peter will email all research material provided by Jose to each member.

Discussion regarding what is right and wrong with our Town Meeting ensued with some members voicing their opinion. It was concluded that a survey of Town Meeting Members be conducted to get their perspective *(in accordance with the strategy briefed to the Selectmen*

last September). Reno noted that the survey results will be the basis for recommending reforms.

Everyone agreed the Milford Town Meeting process is the most efficient form of government and has functioned very nicely with Mike as the Town Moderator.

Reno indicated he has been a member for over 40 years and it would be a good idea to take an objective evaluation of the entire Town Meeting format

Bill commented the TMWG will share their thoughts with the Board of Selectmen (BOS) and sponsor the Article. He noted it is difficult getting precinct members. There may be technical reasons for not speaking at the TM involving microphones, podium height, speakers and lack of monitors.

Reno mentioned we can look at how to get the precinct members more enthusiastic. Find ways to make the meetings more user friendly.

Dr. Heller commented precinct members need to be encouraged to get up and speak. Decide what is right not only what is wrong. Apathy is a problem. Make the TM dates known at the beginning of the year to help members avoid conflicts and it could create better attendance.

Kim mentioned that it can be uncomfortable and intimidating to go before the TM. Members may need to be better informed about the articles.

Additional discussion involved electronic voting and having the Town Clerk maintain a precinct member email data base.

Homework:

A review of the members in Precinct 2 and 4 will be made by the committee and recommendations for filling the 2 vacancies will be discussed at our next meeting.

Review research material and have recommendations for survey questions.

Meeting adjourned

Peter Scandone