

Town of Natick - Town Governance Study Committee

Approved meeting minutes

June 8, 2023 7:00 PM

Via Zoom

Members present: Carol Gloff (Chair), Matt Brand (Vice-Chair), Josh Ostroff (Clerk), Hillary Truslow, Dan Sullivan, Michael Avitzur, Linda Wollschlager, Ex-Officio Member Sue Salamoff. Also present: Bernie Lynch, John Petrin, Dom Mallozzi

The meeting was called to order by Chair Gloff at 7:04 PM with reference to the regulations applicable to virtual public meetings, followed by a roll call.

### **Public Speak**

None.

### **Public Survey**

Michael has written a draft report, which was shared with the committee on the screen. He followed the framework of the report on the previous survey. Mike briefly went through the report, which will be sent to the committee and included on the next agenda for approval.

### **Appointed Committees**

After discussion, Josh offered a motion that the Town “*adopt a policy or practice to require formal, periodic review of appointed, non-statutory committees to ensure that their charge, term and composition are still necessary and appropriate in the view of the appointing authority, with consideration to potential duplication of effort and/or overlapping jurisdiction.*” The motion was seconded by Matt and unanimously voted by roll call.

### **Final Report**

Carol noted that everyone had received a copy of the draft final report on Monday, which Hillary shared on the screen.

Committee discussion followed and members identified sections on which they would do further work.

**Hillary** will work on public engagement.

For comparable communities, Amherst and Andover were cited as examples. Watertown is potentially another. North Attleborough is a good case. Framingham is relevant as a neighbor. Wayland as well. We will cite Amherst, North Attleborough, Framingham and Wayland. Plymouth and Andover may be included as well. **Linda** will do this with Bernie’s assistance.

For high level findings, Carol stressed the need to have others review. **Dan** will take that on.

We discussed the high-level findings.

For recommendations, under process, Josh spoke to the reasons for recommending a charter commission. Josh moved that we recommend a charter commission for the reasons enumerated. Dan seconded the motion and it was unanimously voted by roll call. There was discussion about the role of our committee and how it fits into this larger process. Sue observed that the work we have done is important to this process and we have provided a lot of substance to the public discussion.

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**Josh** will add to the resources section, including some of our web site material and from Community Paradigm. **Dan** and **Linda** will also participate.

**Sue** had some concerns about the recommendations for Town Meeting that were not enforceable. She will send edits.

We will need to do an executive summary after the report is substantially complete.

**Minutes**

Minutes for both June 1 and this meeting will be on our next agenda.

On a motion by Matt, seconded by Hillary, the meeting was adjourned at 8:34 pm by a unanimous roll call vote.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Joshua Ostroff, Clerk