**Governance Study Committee**

Meeting Minutes - August 8, 2023

Meeting was held in hybrid form. Called to order at 7:30 pm. Members present: Ganesh Rangarajan-Chair, Daniela Field, Philip King, Joanne Michalik, Peg Arguimbau, Keevin Geeler, and Matt Keenan. Members not in attendance: David Wluka and Michael Illuzi.

**Welcome new members -** The Chair asked a new appointee to the Committee, Daniela Field, to introduce herself and the other Committee members also did the same. The Chair also introduced Michael Illuzi, as the second new member. Both members were appointed to the Governance Study Committee by the Town of Sharon Select Board.

**Reorganize Committee.** After a brief discussion, it was decided that there was no need have subcommittees given the 3 charges remaining. It was also decided that since not all members were present, we would hold off on any committee organization topics.

**Review Committee charge** – The Committee reviewed the committee charge as described by the Select Board. Mr. King provided some color on the recall and renewal provision and issues in the Town of Natick recently and that the Town of Sharon does not have any such process. Mr. King also discussed the Town of Moderator role and the need to codify the separation of duties so no individual would have an undue amount of power. Mr. Keenan felt that the Committee was very close and was not sure how much we needed to change. The Chair took on the next steps of checking with the Town Moderator or other town officials to get some additional background. Mr. Keenan also wondered whether we would have the ability to work with our Town Attorney, especially for Items 1 and 2 on the committee charge. He also asked on us checking with the town officials on previous items on the charge and our current status – on electronic voting, non citizen voting, and others. There was also clarification requested, from both Mr. Keenen and Ms. Arguimbau, on checking with the Town Moderator or the Select Board on the third item on our charge around codifying duties of the Town Moderator.

**Communications with Town Committees** – Mr. King was wondering whether we needed to reach out to other committees via the liaisons, speak with the moderator, the select board, or anyone else. Mr. Keenan suggested that we could speak with specific committees where they have had an issue with recall or removal and get them to weigh in on our recall or removal provisions. Mr. King suggested we check with other Towns and what they had done and whether we could do an outreach and look at bylaws of other towns. Mr. Keenan suggested that we take the recall and removal work/language we had already put together and go back to the other committees with that language and test it with the committees.

**Discuss in person meetings, timing, and day** - Several members discussed going back to in-person meetings and the desire to get together in person. It was also discussed that having the hybrid option should be left open. Team discussed keeping meetings on Tuesdays at 7:30pm

**Other Topics –** None

**Minutes and next meeting date –** August 8 minutes will be reviewed for acceptance at our next meeting. At this point, date is flexible – either August 15 or August 22nd.

Meeting adjourned at 8:15 pm.