

Town of Sharon
Governance Study Committee
Subcommittee for Review of Boards

Meeting Minutes

November 16, 2021, Thursday, 8:00pm

Location: Zoom

Present: Sarah Monahan, Paul Pietal, Ronald Goodman, David Wluka, Philip King

Not present: n/a

Call to Order – 8:05pm Philip King, Chair

Minutes

Ron Goodman motion to approve 10/14/21 minutes. Paul Pietal 2nd. 4-0-1 (David Wluka abstained, absent from 10/14/21 meeting).

Ron Goodman motion to approve 11/4/21 minutes as corrected, Paul Pietal 2nd. 4-0-1 (Philip King abstained, not present from entire meeting).

Correspondence – none

Committee Liaisons

David Wluka has reached out to Board of Health. Has received no response. Will continue to reach out.

Philip King has reached out to Capital Outlay committee. Has received no response. Has attended a meeting.

Ron Goodman has communicated with 2 school committee members and will be setting up meetings.

Overall response from committees has been less than hoped.

Paul Pietal has spoken to community member Colleen Tuck who has served on many boards and committees in town. As the Select Board's role is to be policy makers (not hands on, day to day), she feels 3 people can handle policy. Regarding Open Meeting Law, she believes keeping 3 members provides a barricade, keeping members from talking. This is good. She is adamant that 3 members is the right number. Regarding the Town Clerk position, Colleen's opinion is if it becomes appointed, we need to decide who appoints, and an appointed person could jump from town to town for pay increases. If elected, someone unqualified could win. Approximately 60% of town have elected Town Clerk, 40% have appointed. Colleen thinks open town meeting has run its course.

David Wluka likes the idea of professionals with qualifications. Paul Pietal commented that if an unqualified person was running, people in town would get someone qualified to run.

David Wluka spoke to people in Braintree. Braintree moved from Open Town Meeting to Representative Town Meeting and now has Mayor with Town Council. These people feel the current structure has created barriers and disconnect with the public.

Philip King commented that communication between departments as it relates to the public is poor. Poor communication related to paving project on his street. He emailed Town Administrator and Select Board, has received no response. Paul Pietal agreed there is a communication issue in Town, will mention this to Personnel Board.

Ron Goodman suggested Melissa Imbaro could possibly help GSC communicate and see how it goes. We may learn we need a communications person in Town Hall.

There was general discussion of voting remotely through phones and clickers. If we made it easier to vote, more people might participate. Wluka, King, and Goodman agree we should look at technology options.

Options to collect data

General discussion of how to collect data. King mentioned using Sharon High School AP Government students and ideas how to do this – wear uniforms, go to Angels, Post Office. King would reach AP teacher and invite to our next meeting. Pietal mentioned Google forms and security features to keep surveys almost completely anonymous. Goodman suggested disseminating surveys on Google, at town hall, at Post Office, etc; see what we get for responses; then decide how to tabulate.

Budget

The committee suggested we ask Select Board for a budget.

Report to Select Board

Pietal will summarize subcommittee progress and present to Select Board with his chair's report of the full committee.

Future Meetings

Next meeting of this subcommittee – December 13, 2021, Monday, 8:00pm.

Meeting adjourned 9:17pm.