

**Committee to Study the Number of Selectmen ("CSNS")
DRAFT minutes of Meeting held October 23, 2017**

2017 NOV 17 PM 1:59

Present: Debra Deutsch, Judie Feins, Laurie Graham, Doug John, Ralph Jones, Andrew Plunkett, Lynn Read, Maryann Scali (presiding), Amy Trotsky

Absent: Michael Crowley, Daniel Halston, Paul Rickter, Peter Whitmer

Meeting started at 7:00pm and concluded at 8:15pm. Doug John will serve as secretary for the next meeting, on November 7.

Approval of minutes of meeting held October 3, 2017

The minutes were approved as submitted, by unanimous vote. Laurie will submit them to the Town Clerk.

Approval of minutes of meeting held October 12, 2017

The minutes were approved, with minor corrections, by unanimous vote. The minutes were approved as submitted, by unanimous vote. Laurie will submit them to the Town Clerk.

The committee thanked Andrew and Laurie for their joint work to take minutes and act as scribe during the Oct. 12 public meeting.

Debrief of October 12 public meeting

Members of the committee noted the following:

- Attendees brought up a broad range of issues related to the study of the number of Selectmen.
- The issues raised were all under the Committee's consideration already, which was reassuring.
- The Final Report should reference the points that attendees made.
- People's views are somewhat unpredictable on this topic.
- People expressed approval that the Committee was seeking for public input *before* forming its conclusions.

Research on comparable towns

Having gathered relevant background information on the set of comparable towns, the next step is to interview Selectmen in them. The Committee reviewed a draft list of questions put together early in our deliberations, then expanded, refined, and reorganized them. Laurie will send the results to Maryann for circulation to members.

Town assignments were adjusted and confirmed as follows:

Acton—Debra Deutsch
Arlington—Maryann Scali
Concord—Ralph Jones
Hanover—Lynn Read
Hingham—Daniel Halston
Lexington—Doug John
Marblehead—Amy Trotsky

Marshfield—Mike Crowley
Milton—Laurie Graham
Stoughton—Andrew Plunkett
Wakefield—Mike Crowley
Westford—Peter Whitmer
Winchester—Judie Feins

Members should first review the materials Lynn put together on the comparable town's bylaws regarding the role of Selectmen. Then they should try to talk with two Selectmen in each town. As many of these interviews as possible should be completed before the Committee's next meeting on Nov. 7.

In addition, Ralph will add a Belmont line to the master spreadsheet on these towns.

Belmont Selectmen Survey

There is still no response yet from the following: Sami Baghdady, Dan LeClerc, Steve Rosales, Ann Warner, Chip O'Hare. Paul Rickter will contact them again to urge participation. Paul will in particular seek responses from current Selectmen Williams and Paolillo.

What additional questions does the committee want to ask Belmont Selectmen? This item was tabled until the next meeting. Members should the responses already collected and bring their suggestions to the Nov. 7 meeting.

Costs of Board of Selectmen

Maryann will try to obtain a 10-year average of costs per Belmont Selectmen, which dollar figure should reflect the variations in whether Selectmen utilize any of the benefits offered beyond the stipend.

Next steps

See under various items above—especially Research on Comparable Towns and Belmont Selectmen Survey.

Adjournment

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 8:15, which motion passed unanimously.

Documents used in the meeting

Agenda for the meeting, draft minutes from the previous two meetings.