

## Town Government Study Committee 2014

Library – Arnold Room

December 6, 2014 9:00 am

Committee: Katherine L Babson Jr., Stanley Brooks, Rose Mary Donahue, Arthur J Goldberg, Ann Marie Gross, Richard Page, Linda Perlmutter, Anna Sereiko, Thomas Ulfelder

Also: Kathleen Nagle, Michelle Johnson

Guests: Julian Lange

Katherine Babson called meeting to order at 9:00 am. There were no citizens to speak to the committee.

Babson announced that the goal of this meeting is to review findings and identify major themes for additional work.

Committee members offered opinions on some broad themes that reach across department lines and are of importance town wide.

Julian offered comments to assist TGSC in moving forward

Find the broad themes that emerge from the research

Set a path to move ahead

Make judgements about priorities to maximize effectiveness of the committee's work

The themes chart identifies executive authority as a key component of the findings.

Babson and Donahue presented a chart of priorities based on rankings assigned by committee members as of this point in the research. They stated that priorities are fluid and can be adjusted as more clarity is achieved going forward.

After analysis of the rankings, the priorities fall into three high priorities and several categories that received attention, but not at the level of the top topics. No topic is being discarded entirely, but the committee agree to focus work on the major topic rankings.

- Executive Authority including accountability for making decisions, centralization, and town wide strategic planning
- Opportunities for improvement in operation functions particularly in land use, permitting and building permits.
- Changes in Town Meeting and or governance structure to promote efficiency and better utilize citizen volunteer strengths.

The Committee discussed goals for recommendations. Whether to make presentations of the “ideal” recommendation or strategize at to the “possible” success of recommendations. TGSC suggested that there may be an iterative process to implement some recommendations that could make improvements in the short term while working toward and more “ideal” situation. It was discussed and recommended to be cognizant of both citizen groups and other stakeholders to bring groups along in the discussion of recommendations.

Babson introduced the idea of using Consultant to assist in next phase of work. Committee agreed a consultant would be helpful. Babson will draft a proposal of scope of work and deliverables for consultant.

Adjourned 12 pm.

Submitted by Kathy Nagle