

REPRESENTATIVE TOWN MEETING

Darien, Connecticut

Town Government Structure and Administration (TGS&A) Committee

A Regular Meeting of the TGS&A Committee will be held on Tuesday, May 31, 2016, at 7:30pm in the Room 119, Town Hall.

The agenda for the meeting will be:

1. Approval of the Minutes of the 2/16/16 Regular Meeting, and the 5/10/16 Special Meeting. Both of these Minutes are posted on the TGS&A page of the Town web site.
2. Review of the request by the Board of Selectmen that the RTM look into a blight ordinance, and the activities of this committee to date, in response. Drafts of key sections of the ordinance may be available for review and comment by the Committee.
3. Assignment of further research tasks to members of the committee.
4. Other “new business” that may be called to the attention of the Committee.
5. Adjournment

Frank Kemp, Chairman

Minutes for TGS&A Regular Meeting

January 19, 2015 7:30 p.m.

Room 119 Town Hall

6 of 11 members present

Present were: Frank B. Kemp, M. Caroline Luz, Harry D. McLachlin, Joseph D. Miceli, Clara C. Sartori, and Chris Ezbiansky.

Absent were: Eugene F. Coyle, Nancy Coyle Downs, Kenneth A. Fiveson, Jr., John Boulton, and S. Lloyd Plehaty

The meeting was called to order at 7:40 p.m.

AGENDA:

1. The minutes of the 10/26/15 Special Meeting of TGS&A were approved unanimously.
2. The Committee reviewed the resolution proposing moving Part III – Sec. 3 of Appendix B to Part I, Chapter XIII, Section 53 of the Town Charter. This is considered a maintenance change and the Committee was in agreement by acclaim. No vote was held.
3. We reviewed several matters referred to us by the Rules Committee.
 - a) A maintenance change to the procedure for nominating the Moderator of the RTM to better reflect the reality of how this has worked for the past decade. The Committee unanimously approved the proposed change.
 - b) We discussed at length the proposal to institute term limits for committee members, focusing on the hoped-for end result of enticing “new blood” and “new ideas” onto committees and reducing the risk of committees becoming stagnant over time. We believe this topic is substantial enough that it should be reviewed by all standing committees of the RTM before coming up for a vote and we voted unanimously to recommend that EITHER: 1) the Rules Committee send the current proposed change to all committees, with an amendment to the 8-year limit that would make an exception for Committee Chairs so that a Chairman could remain on a Committee for up to 10 years to finish committee work that might otherwise be disrupted;
OR
2) the Rules Committee eliminate the need for this change to Appendix B by issuing guidelines that would clarify the Rules Committee’s criteria for committee assignments, allowing for new members to be assigned to popular committees and encouraging shifting among more established RTM members.
 - c) We considered the imposition of a loss of self-nomination privilege for members with poor RTM or Committee attendance. We voted unanimously to approve the proposed change (highlighted in italics) to Part II- Sec. 6, with the following addition to the following sentence: “A town meeting member **who has an attendance record of 50% or more RTM meetings, and 50% or more standing committee meetings during his or her current elected term** may nominate himself for reelection from the same district by giving written notice to such effect to the town clerk at least ten (10) weeks before the election.”
4. The Committee briefly reviewed pending items that will come before us in future months, including harbor master requests and archaic language concerning the Public Works department in the Town Charter.
5. It was noted that the “blight” situation was summarized in a Darien Times article on December 17th. The Committee will next proceed with visits to other towns to inform our recommendations for a draft ordinance.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:31 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Caroline Luz, Clerk, TGS&A