

Representative Town Meeting
Darien, Connecticut
Rules Committee Minutes
October 19th, 2009
Regular Meeting

Present: M. Adiletta, K. Armour, H. Artinian, E. Bacon, G. Coyle, Jack Davis, J. Grogan, S. Maguire, J. Price, F. Smith, G. Swenson, R. Young

Meeting called to order at 8:10 p.m.

Approve minutes of October 5th: unanimous with 4 absentions J. Davis, E. Bacon, F. Smith and M. Adiletta

Review status of TGS&A committee ordinance work.

A listing of fees included in the ordinances is needed in order for them to be removed from the ordinances and included in the budget process.

A schedule of fees will also be posted on the website.

This request will be given to the Town Administrator regarding the department fees.

A copy of the Rules Committee charge to TGS&A will also be given to the Town Administrator.

Status of Outstanding items for future agenda:

Tax exemption for Handicapped vehicles: Proposal would exempt modified vehicles from the personal property tax roles. Primary F&B, Second PH&S and TGS&A already assigned

Lease for rooftop space at Town Hall for cell phone tower: Primary: PW Secondary: PZ&H and F&B

Motion to assign: FS 2nd GS

Vote: approved unanimous with one abstention: H. Artinian

Tax status of affordable housing: Proposed tax abatement ordinance for low- and moderate-income housing. The Darien Housing Authority is requesting as the PILOT (Payment in lieu of taxes) will not apply once the Allen O'Neill property is redeveloped.

This ordinance would potentially cover all low/moderate income housing

Primary: F&B Second: PZ&H and TGS&A

Motion to assign: GS Second: JP vote: unanimous

Motion to add TGS&A to both ordinances: JD 2nd FS approved

Review Orientation Material for distribution to new members:

Chairs of Standing Committees will be asked to submit annual reports and attendance records prior to the Rules Committee meeting to assign committees.

Remove from material page 1 under RTM Members: sentence at the end of the first paragraph: "The Finance and Budget and Education Committees require the greatest time commitments from their members".

Moderator will make statement to Members regarding the process by which committee assignments are made. Standards considered in no particular order:

- Equitable representation of districts to each committee
- Length of elected RTM service
- Prior Committee service
- Personal preference and qualifications

Advising that the Rules Committee makes assignment decisions and a member's first choice may not always be available. The more information members provide on the forms the better decision the committee can make.

Statement will also include clarification of time commitment for each committee.

For Elements of Committee Reports, the website for Roberts Rules of Order will be attached to orientation document.

Discussion regarding the "paper trail" of resolutions from Commissions and the BOS Process by which they originate and are introduced to the Rules Committee; is there a way to monitor the process with time stamps?

Name Nominating committee for election of moderator: Flora Smith

Agenda for November Annual Meeting

Swearing in of newly elected/reelected members

Vote for Moderator

Vote for Ethics Committee

Separate into districts to elect District Chair, Vice Chair, and Rules committee members.

Cancel Rules Committee Meeting scheduled for 11/2

Move FS 2nd HA

Meeting adjourned: 9:30pm

Respectfully submitted,

Susannah Maguire