

ARTICLE 8 - Amend Town Government Study Committee Bylaw

Submitted by: *Government Study Committee*

To see if the Town will vote to amend the Town Government Study Committee Bylaw as follows:

General Bylaws-Chapter 35- Town Officers, Boards, Committees and Commissions.

Article X Town Government Study Committee.

Section 35-42 Establishment and Membership.

The Town Government Study Committee was permanently established by the December 10, 1962, Town Meeting unanimous approval of Warrant Article 17. The Committee shall hence forth consist of five members with staggered three-year terms. The Select Board, Finance Committee, and School Committee shall each appoint one committee member or designee.

Town Meeting shall appoint two Committee **members**-at-large. The Committee shall post sixty-day public notice of Town Meeting **member** at-large appointment vacancies **and in local media, on the Town website, and request announcements at public meetings. The Committee will** submit the Town Meeting warrant article for any **Town Meeting** appointments to the Committee.

Should no one be appointed **at by** Town Meeting, the first **member-at-large** vacancy will be appointed by the Town Moderator and any second **member-at-large** vacancy will be appointed by the Town Manager.

35-43 Responsibilities and Referrals.

~~The Select Board and Town Meeting will refer topics to the Committee for review and recommendation. The Committee makes annual reports and recommendations regarding these referred topics to the Select Board and Town Meeting on matters pertaining to Town Charter and Town Bylaws. The Committee will perform periodic broad review of Town government structure and may recommend Charter or bylaw changes or the filing of special acts with the State Legislature~~

~~be considered, after conducting a public hearing thereon during a Select Board meeting.~~

The Committee is a public Town resource for research and recommendations on best practice in Town Government. The Committee makes annual reports to the Select Board and Town Meeting relating to Town Charter and Town Bylaw amendments that are legislative in nature.

The Select Board, or Town Meeting if a topic is listed on a duly posted warrant, may refer topics to the Committee for review and recommendation.

In addition, the Committee may perform review of Town government structure and may recommend Charter or bylaw changes or the filing of special acts with the State Legislature after conducting a public hearing thereon during a Select Board meeting.

~~35-44 Quorum:~~

~~A quorum of the Town Government Study Committee shall consist of no fewer than three members.~~

A motion was made and carried Yes: 165 No: 137 to amend Article 8 as follows:

MOTION: I, Clinton Dalton of Labor in Vain Road, move that the pending motion be amended in its entirety by substituting the following:

Section 35-42 Establishment and Membership.

The Town Government Study Committee (TGSC) shall consist of five members, each with three-year terms to be appointed as follows: the Select Board shall appoint two TGSC members; the Town Moderator shall appoint two TGSC members; and the Finance Committee shall appoint one TGSC member. Whenever a vacancy occurs on the TGSC, either by resignation, disability, or otherwise, the same shall be filled by the original appointing authority.

Section 35-43 Responsibilities: Topics of Study.

Only the Select Board by a majority vote or any Town Meeting by a simple majority vote, provided the topic is listed on its duly posted warrant, may task the TGSC with a topic for study. Only if so tasked by either the Select Board or Town Meeting, the TGSC may make recommendations, including amendments to the Town Charter, the General Bylaws, or the Protective Zoning Bylaws, or filing home rule petitions with the Legislature and may, after conducting a public hearing, thereon in accordance with G.L. c. 30A, report such recommendations, if any, to either the Select Board or Town Meeting, as the case may be, as soon as practicable.

Section 35-44 Quorum.

A quorum of the Town Government Study Committee shall consist of no fewer than three duly appointed members as provided in Section 35-42.

To be effective after the May 2024 Annual Town Meeting.

Quantum of Vote: Simple Majority
Amended Motion
Select Board Recommend: 5-0
Finance Committee Recommend: 8-1
School Committee Recommend: NR

ACTION: Yes: 156 No: 129. Article 8 carries as amended by majority vote.
