

April 29, 2018 – 8am @ Legion Hall

Select Board Mediation Workshop – No public comment is anticipated.

Members Present: Jack Petropoulos, Alison Manugian, Josh Degen, Barry Pease, Becky Pine

Additional Attendees: John Giger, Patrick Parker-Roach, Anna Eliot

Chair Degen called the meeting to order at 8:06am. Meeting needs to conclude by about 9:30 to ensure that members can avoid road closures due to Groton Road Race.

Discussion ensued around changes that can be made to agenda and process that would be beneficial.

- Addition of a quarterly workshop meeting off camera in a more casual setting to discuss function and process.
- Addition to agenda of an item for update on past topics or decisions. Intended as an update to members and the public if something has changed of which we should be aware. This likely won't be something open for debate or much discussion other than clarification.
- Potential need for some sort of on-boarding process for newly elected members. Tour of town hall to introduce employees would be helpful. Agenda items should come with some background as to when this was last discussed or any hot items in recent years. A mention of the policy or regulation relating to decisions and votes would be helpful.
- Discussion prior to stating our positions on the criteria and factors that are key. Agreement on measurement of outcome is helpful – ie knowing what we want the benefit to be before we make a decision. Some indication of prioritization of things like revenue, cost, cultural benefit etc. Often understanding someone's priorities and process makes their stated position more logical.

Brief discussion ensued of Important underlying terms:

Trust – people will listen and learn – having an open mind – working in good faith in the best interest of the town – some logic and rationale to support decisions and thinking – assume that everyone is logic driven based on the priorities they have established, sharing these priorities clarifies when there is disagreement – agreement is not a goal, our differences make us stronger as a Board.

Respect

Some discussion took place as to how to measure if a board is functioning well – is this outcome based or based on behaviors and meeting process? We can be high functioning but still disagree on outcomes and provide seemingly fluctuating guidance over time.

This has been a good experience and beneficial for all.

Meeting adjourned at 9:30 am

Approved 5/15/18