Town Meeting Review Committee
Draft Minutes – January 30, 2013
7:00 PM

Committee members Present in person: Ellen Baxendale (EB); Bob Collins (BC); Berta
Erikson (BE); Alison Eydenberg (AE); Greg Fishbone (GF); Barry A. Pease (BP)
On phone participation due to illness: Scott Harker (SH)

Also present at table: Michael Bouchard, Town Clerk & Jason Kauppi, Town Moderator

In Audience: Rule Loving, Citizen of Groton
              Reporter for Landmark ?

BEGIN: Call to Organize
Results: Bob Collins, Chair
        Greg Fishbone, Vice-Chair
        Volunteering to be responsible for making sure minutes get done, but not
necessarily be taking them each time → Clerk: Barry Pease

Activity: Gathered names for contact list – List sent out to all members on 2/26/2013.

Topic of discussion from Chair – *Consider Charge of our Committee*
   1. 6 months as specified in original Selectmen decree is not long enough (June 30,
      2013)
   2. **Goal for this committee is to have all findings completed and submitted by ATM
      2014.**
   3. **Committee has the ability to amend charge, and all agreed that this should be
      done to extend the time/scope of work.**
   4. **The charge of the committee is only to recommend, not implement.**

   Other considerations:
       o   Groton's system versus systems of other towns (??)
       o   Accessibility to Groton Town Meeting (GTM) (EB)
       o   The way GTM is conducted, versus public hearings (BC)
       o   Voting (How it's conducted) (??)
       o   Encouraging participation, versus Boredom (BC)

SH – At Special Town Meeting (January 2013), there were many people walking out
after the votes. Allows one the inference that people are not interested in governance.

Chair allows Rule Loving to speak:
        Rule Loving: Ideas for gathering input from town such as Survey Monkey and
Google Forums should be considered in research phase.

   Other considerations, continued:
       o   Put the most important items first on the agenda. (AE)

- o   Based on $$ amount
- o   Make a policy that certain items/thresholds are ballot voted versus TM. (AE)
- o   Baby sitting (??)
  - o   No access to votes for a family with a 6 yr old, for example.
- o   Use of technology during discussion phase of GTM warrant article (??)
- o   Use of technology during voting phase of GTM warrant article (??)

TOPIC: SURVEY

It's recognized by all members that a statistically reliable survey is required to gather input and information regarding what the town's citizens truly feel is important in their governance.

Items for members to bring to next meeting:
A) *Bring a list of survey questions*
B) *Research of what other towns are doing*
C) *List of questions for Town Counsel: What is legally possible?*
D) *Everyone should come to the meeting with ideas that must be solved.*

TOPIC: Subcomittee on Technology

Agreed to with members as: Greg Fishbone, Scott Harker, Barry A. Pease

TOPIC: Research done by Blue Ribbon Governance Committee (BRGC)

(BP) Contacted Peter Cunningham after his editorial

Requested survey/research information on 1/30/2013.

Peter Cunningham recommended asking remaining members of BRGC to speak before our committee.

Next Meeting date: Set for Wed, February 27 at 7 PM.

Adjourned, all in favor, voice vote.