

Minutes  
Culture, History and Governance (CHuG)  
Sub-Committee  
April 15, 2008

Present: Susan Brooks, Paul Giese, Mark Hochman, Jack MacLean, Karen Keane, Harriet Todd, Peter Sugar

We discussed the following:

- We acknowledged the resignation of Nancy Henderson, who had to leave because of her other/professional commitments. Regarding a possible replacement for her, we agreed that for the moment we will be staying with our current membership as it would be difficult to bring a new member up to speed with all the work already behind us. At the same time we may be looking for some outsiders to assist us with some of our reviews and analyses.
- We are still looking for statistical comparisons between Lincoln and other towns around us (need follow-up by Tim Higgins and Susan B.)
- How does all this affect us – a question directed primarily at Town Meeting – which some may consider a dying form of government and yet which is the embodiment in Lincoln of our way of doing things. It was considered by some that we need to modernize the way TM is run and also make the surroundings a little more friendly, bright and of the times. Perhaps there may even be a way to have the business aspect of TM become more concentrated.
- We need to pay attention to our younger generation
- One factor may be that residents in larger houses ('mansions'?) may be totally removed from the collegiality of our town (though one can only find this out - confirm or deny it - by studying the survey - which is being analyzed at this time
- It was acknowledged that increasingly, Lincoln has to work with its neighbors, which enlarges the agenda/workload for government.
- Communication could be the key: how to disseminate the knowledge, how to get out the message. Is the website (or blogs) the tool? This would mean improving the quality and accessibility of our site
- It was emphasized again, that we in no way have reached any conclusions, and this in fact is our agenda for the next several weeks. We cannot make sweeping statements without a proper foundation and research
- One of the keys here is the survey: Mark is working on this and is setting up an approach with Judi of COG. We may also have others assigned by the various subcoms. The work will probably take appx. 4 weeks
- In the meantime we agreed to keep moving forward and start our discussions within CHuG, by taking Jack's very good task list and memo and working through this in a systematic manner
- We also agreed to try to analyze the Board survey further – Harriet may work on this with Bill
- It was also agreed that the survey data pertinent to others rather than CHuG would be distributed to the other subcoms
- We concluded that our task is quite large and thus we will not be able to do all the things we may like; thus the question which will have to be decided by us soon is what it is that we can accomplish in the limited amount of available time and what are the topics and questions, which will have to be left for the future as part of an implementation plan - not to forget that we need to ensure that the appropriate boards and committees buy into the process in order that this can become a real follow-up to the MP
- It was mentioned again, that we need to bring the schools into the discussion somewhat - perhaps by inviting Julie Dobrow and some others to have a session with us.

Next meeting: We will meet next week on Wednesday at 7:30 AM at the Library