

Minutes
Culture, History and Governance (CHuG)
Sub-Committee
April 23, 2008

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

We discussed the following:

- As we agreed last time, we began a discussion of Jack's paper on Governance. We questioned Jack as to his precedents – he indicated that he culled his ideas from several sources: our earlier discussions, the board survey (and even going back to the governance findings in the early 90's) – and these resulted fairly easily in what we see before us
- He touched upon the fact that Lincoln regards Town Meeting as an ideal way of conducting its business, well grounded in history
- We questioned whether there in fact is a change in the town's character – caused largely by its changing population – now more affluent and less mixed than it was ten-fifteen years ago. It is thus possible that the changing population does not see Town Meeting in the same light as do the 'old-timers'
- Do we in fact have the same interaction between the citizenry as was the case a number of years ago?
- It is our intent to shore up governance as we know it.
- Jack enumerates his goals on Page 9 – and these seem correct – however we need to find the supporting evidence to validate them. Thus we will be looking to the Town-wide survey for this support.
- The work on the survey is in progress but will take some time – especially as Mark is also quite busy with his professional duties. Thus results may not appear in a usable form until towards the end of May. We wondered whether we ought to prioritize the questions we would like to tackle first. Thus, placing the goals in order of priority, the survey could probably best support nos. 1 and 7, with somewhat less clarity for the others.
- What we need to accomplish within our group discussion is to pose some hypotheses with these becoming questions for Mark to follow up on from the survey
- We had some discussion on Goal No. 2, concerning the issue of volunteers, the fact that there are large groups of volunteers for certain specific organizations, e.g. the schools and the Library. However they are more of an 'ad hoc' nature: it is more difficult to draw these people into volunteering on a more permanent basis for some positions in government. Often this can only be achieved by personal contact and invitation. Thus, we could re-write Goal No. 2 as: 'Facilitate opportunities for volunteers, including important but time-limited contributions to the Town, and cultivating volunteers for assuming public office.'

Next meeting: We will meet on Wednesday, 4/30 at 7:30 AM at the Library