

Minutes  
Culture, History and Governance (CHuG)  
Sub-Committee  
June 11, 2008

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

We discussed the following:

- We received the Governance paper from COG – but too late for us to have reviewed it for a discussion – this will take place the next time we meet.
- Harriet has tabulated the numerical questions of the Board survey. We will discuss this later – in the context of the other survey being analyzed by the survey group. Their draft results are expected within a week. We asked that the board survey results may also be considered in reviewing the town wide data
- Mark spoke briefly of their on-going work: all results seem to be indicative of the fact that people's involvement is often started by being asked in the first place. Thus we considered having a meeting with, say, the realtors in town to encourage them to present these possibilities to newcomers as they purchase their homes.
- Most of our discussion centered around the remaining work as we move forward. It is recognized that everything has been delayed, partly because of the arrival of the papers later than anticipated and also the amount of work required to analyze the surveys. Added to the mix is the need to make our report to the BOS, scheduled for 6/23, with the points for the presentation having to be readied by next week.
- We briefly touched upon the possibility of having some focus group discussion. It was accepted that focus groups require a lot of preparation time and also may not produce exceptional results – the discussion is more about interaction between the participants and thus not truly representative of a broader perspective. This would argue for not going down this route.
- We still felt that it would be very useful to have a meeting with the education people – not so much as a focus group but to get their views and perspective about governance. We will be arranging to meet with them: K-8, LS, Minuteman, and the PTA (this may not happen before the fall). (We will do so, even though the involvement of the schools is not part of the state mandated MP process.)
- We also discussed the importance of future implementation of our goals and who in fact will be the keeper and the mover of these ideas. We believe it will be critical for us to meet with the particular boards/committees, whom we may be considering as the repository of these ideas/intents to ensure that they in fact will buy into our ideas.
- We recognized the short time remaining to us. During this period we will:
  - Read and comment on the Governance paper – this we will do this week and be ready to discuss amongst ourselves at our next meeting
  - Re-define our goals and recommendations, after we have seen the results of the survey, and discuss/agree about them prior to breaking for the summer
  - Draw up a tentative implementation strategy and determine which boards/committees would be the best to carry on with the work (follow up with these groups will be carried out in the Fall)
  - Review our conclusions so far regarding the Cultural and Historic resources of the town and see what if any additional tasks should be undertaken (this work will mostly be in Jack MacL's court)
- We agreed that, due to the remaining work, we will have our regular CHuG meetings on 6/18, 25 and 7/2 (last one before we break for the summer). We also added two additional meetings, all at 7:30 AM, on 6/20 and 6/30
- We need to have the points for our presentation to Mark Whitehead by 6/17. PS will prepare a skeleton which will be distributed by 6/13, with comments requested by 6/16

Next meeting: We will meet on Wednesday, 6/18 at 7:30 AM at the Library