

Minutes  
Culture, History and Governance (CHuG)  
Sub-Committee  
July 24, 2008

Present: Susan Brooks, Paul Giese, Jack MacLean, Bill Stason, Harriet Todd, Peter Sugar

We discussed the following:

- There was some discussion around the schools: should they be included in our discussions? We agreed that, while they are not part of the state mandate, we still need to talk to them and get their input, though perhaps not by setting aside a separate focus group just for them – i.e. we should include them together with others in our focus groups
- We are aware that some interviews have already taken place –with both the K-8 and LS parent groups (by Susan Brooks and Nancy Henderson) – we need to see the minutes of these discussions.
- We also agreed that there should be additional interviews with both the heads of School Committees and the superintendents – preparatory to the focus groups. Bill Stason and Paul Giese will conduct these in the near future
- It was also suggested that we ask the K-8 schools to include instruction of the children in the form of government Lincoln has
- We will be holding three focus groups in September: two on Governance and one on Culture and History
- The following points were agreed upon re: our seven goals: most of these can be grouped under Governance, as either TM form of government or Volunteerism: thus goals 1, 3 and 6 would come under TM form of government, while 2 and 4 under Volunteerism. 7 would be under both. As for regionalization (goal 5), this is a very complex issue and does not really depend on the type of government a town has. It encompasses both financial interest and regional issues which are more directed towards issues to benefit the whole region, rather than just a particular town. Thus it was felt that we should not pursue this topic at great length (though we would still bring it up during our focus group discussions); rather we would leave it as part of implementation and a later work plan.
- We agreed that we need to involve the Moderator more in our discussions, and we will invite him to our first meeting after Labor Day
- We need to be very sure in having a good grasp of our existing conditions, in order to be able to discuss improvements and make comparisons: i.e. have an understanding of the relationship of any modifications to what we have in place.
- Town Meeting: when we speak of TM, we are not speaking of just the meeting but of the form of government Lincoln has. Thus discussions about TM would involve:
  - The preparation for the meeting
  - The facilitation of a better meeting
  - Outreach towards the citizenry (communication is key here)
  - Effectiveness of the meeting
  - How SoTT fits into the overall picture - its relationship to TM
  - The process leading up to TM (e.g. from its start early in the Fall)
  - The budget process – should we prepare a chart of the process as has been done in the past?
  - Timing for the TM (Saturdays? Other days?)
- We agreed on the participants for our Focus Groups:
  - Governance:
    - TM form of government: Moderator, FinCom, BOS + staff (Tim or Anita), Schools (all three), Planning Board, ZBA, ConCom, Water Board
    - Volunteers ( we are looking at this issue as encouragement for citizens to partake in public service): Personnel Board, Board of Assessors, Moderator, BOS + staff, Schools (K-8 and LS, not Minuteman), Council on Aging, Friends of the Library, ZBA, Town Clerk, Recreation
  - C & H: Historic Society, Historic Commission, Archival Advisory Council, Library, Lincoln Cultural Council, ConCom, Schools (K-8 only), MMNHP, Pierce House, Codman, DeCordova, Audubon
- We will invite all participants, giving them choices of only two dates, starting with the second week after Labor Day: Tuesdays or Thursdays – but not 9/16 (an election date)
- All meetings will be facilitated: the list of potential facilitators includes: Bill Lytle, David Forbes, Jason Felsch, Mark Hochman, Bob Wolf