

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

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

The meeting concentrated on our work going forward and essentially how to approach the upcoming SoTT. We discussed the following:

- We reviewed first the remaining schedule: after SoTT there will be a follow up meeting on 18 November and then the drop-dead date – 21 November - for final comments on the Goals and Recommendations
- We compared our summary as presented earlier to the SC and comments from Bill Stason and Jack MacLean. In general terms we agreed that Jack's comments were really looking forward to the final version of our goals, while Bill's could be characterized more as edit comments to our SoTT presentation
- We also thought that the goals as contained in our previous 'table' if presented on slides (as currently appear to be the intent of the SC) would take too long and would not really allow for a proper exposition of our ideas for public discussion. A better scenario would be if the 'tables' could be sent out earlier and then the presentations of each subcom could concentrate on emphasizing the essentials (PS to take up at the next SC meeting).
- Most of Bill's comments (see attached) were considered to be asides – easily explainable during the presentation.
 - Re: TM presentations, on specific warrant articles, greater interest could be generated by a better use of visual tools
 - Re: civic lessons ... : see our commentary below on the schools
 - Re: finding volunteers for public office, we believe the real point is the initial entry of volunteers into town affairs by invitation and one-on-one contact; this point, currently no. 3 in our 'table' will become no. 2 with the present no. 2 moving to no. 3
 - Re: communication between government and citizens and the desire for feed-back is really an implementation issue; we again emphasized that the whole effort we are engaged in at this time is the formulation of a master plan and any elaboration belongs to implementation
 - Re: the increasing of the town's revenues, this issue in many ways belongs to LUED. Our task is simply to set the philosophical goal from a governance perspective of where we may look for additional funds and how we might go about this goal
- We concurred that at this moment our goals for Culture and History are very rudimentary. We agreed that Jack will elaborate on this point and we will discuss it at our next meeting
- We briefly reviewed the minutes written after our recent interviews with the three school groups. The most common strain running through all three was the need for better communication and the effort which ought to be made to increase teacher time availability to allow for better contacts between students and our town's cultural institutions. This is a policy matter but there are obvious difficulties involved in how to promote the objective (teachers' time availability, union contracts, etc).
- Schools: civics were also emphasized and the recognition that this subject is a good tool in encouraging students – eventually our citizens – to become volunteers as they reach adult life
- We also discussed the survey/s – which will be part of our presentation at SoTT and also the topic for the next SC meeting on 21 October. We all agreed that the surveys were an excellent and professional effort; thus we may wish to consider (as part of the implementation plan) to have continuing updates – even on a yearly basis through additional professional quality surveys.
- We thought that a slide dealing with the interconnection between the schools, cultural assets and Town Meeting would be helpful – and Mark agreed to produce a slide on this issue.
- We finally discussed the limitations imposed on us by the Open Meeting Law. It makes it very difficult for us to conduct conversations amongst ourselves - on line or otherwise – without

running afoul of state law. We will pursue this further and again make an effort even of contacting our state reps to see what modifications if any may be made in the law – though we did not think that in the end we would be successful - primarily because of resistance from large communities (political interest groups, etc.)

- We will add a bullet point in our ‘table’ in the Recommendation column under the Issue – ‘Serving on major boards ...’ as follows:
 - Provide board training on the limits and opportunities within the Open Meeting Law, by-laws and other applicable regulations
- We concluded that it was very important for us to have one more meeting prior to SoTT to follow up on the above-mentioned points and finalize our positions. We intend to emphasize to all our members the desirability of attendance.

Next meeting: **7:30 AM on 29 October, 2008 – at the Library.**