

Minutes
Culture, History and Governance (CHuG)
Sub-Committee
October 17, 2007

Present: Mark Hochman, Karen Keane, Jack MacLean, Bill Stason, Harriet Todd, Peter Sugar

We discussed the following:

- We reviewed the SC meeting of 10/16/07 (minutes will follow once we receive them from the SC)
- We checked on the progress of the C&H interviews:
 - LEAP: Karen is having some difficulties with finding two members of LEAP (our standard) - she is following up with the LEAP board
 - First Parish: Bill thought that we should also add St. Anne's: he is following up with both
 - No progress on the others as yet
 - CoA: we need to tread with care as we may be at cross purposes with some governance issues
 - It was emphasized again that we need to be looking for ideas and not just facts about the various organizations: how do their philosophies affect the Town and vice versa: what are the key issues on both sides
 - It was thought that our interviews may spark further interviews with other institutions: however, we agreed that we will finish the first list before going on to others. (This effort to be completed by Thanksgiving as previously agreed)
- We looked at the one page 'final' mission statement of CHuG (Jack pointed out that we may not have sent the latest copy to COG: he will follow up)
- In preparing our survey, we need to send our suggested questions/topics to Mark H. ASAP. (This w/e there was a Bemis workshop by Rene Pfister (on musicals), who passed out a questionnaire with some interesting ideas – see attached questions which could have some relevance.)
- We then turned to Governance (we used the Task Force Report of 1994 as a primer):
 - We considered the questions – included in Appendix II - as still reasonably relevant; we may wish to prune them slightly and perhaps add some which would be part of an update. We would then interview as many of the important boards as possible, with the interviews lasting no longer than appx. 30 minutes, conducted by two of our members each, and sending the questions to the boards ahead of time to assist them in thinking of their answers
 - Another task would be for the boards to send us their background materials ahead of the interview
 - One of our tasks for the upcoming week is to read the questions again with care and see what amendments we may wish to make
 - Harriet will check town reports and compile a list of the current boards and committees (target date: this Friday)
 - We need to collect data (BS will try to get the statistical data from Susan Brooks - it would not have to be yearly but could look at the five year averages) on:
 - attendance at Town meetings
 - numbers of people voting
 - who took part in any contested town elections
 - what area current vacancies on various town boards/committees, and what has been the average time period in getting these appointments made
 - What are the mission statements of the various boards/committees (PS will follow up on this with Tim Higgins)
 - We recognize that the volunteer pool is shrinking and in this respect: what can we do to highlight issues and get more people involved. (What in fact makes people volunteer?)
 - We need to layout a work plan with a fairly rigid timeline The idea would be to have made some progress (established a skeleton for the overall report by the February MP meeting and flesh out the skeleton/complete the work on Governance by June (see also work plan in Appendix I of Task Force report as an example)

Next Meetings:

CHuG at 7:30 AM on 24 October, 2007

CLRP 'share' meeting on 25 October, 2007 at 7:30 PM