

REPRESENTATIVE TOWN MEETING COORDINATING COMMITTEE
December 14, 2009

Present: Marie Clarner (1), Walter St. Lawrence (2), Matt Trowbridge (2), Catherine Shuman (3), Shelly Ross (5), Janice Meierdiericks (6), Bob Nerz (7), Bill Moffitt (8), Charles Beale (9), Tom Richards (9)

Meeting called to order at 7:09 PM by Charles Beale.

Treasurer's Report: No monies have been spent. \$225 in account.

Old Business: M. Fisher reported that Town Administrator is not in charge of who takes vehicles home. Each department is responsible for vehicles. Gasoline usage study found that there was no substantial difference in amount used when vehicles were taken home. J. Maslen will submit article for Town Meeting rewording by-law about signage on vehicles. T. Richards made motion that we indefinitely postpone discussion of vehicles. Passed unanimously.

New Business: Town Administrator is suggesting a possibility of 6 town meetings a year. This would mean less time to get action and make for shorter meetings. Discussion centered around:

- Attendance
- Cost of printing materials
- State statues regulating when some articles are taken up
- Selectmen can now call meetings whenever they choose
- Department heads could more easily plan ahead
- Specific main issues could be brought up at specific times
- Grants could more easily be applied for
- Finance Committee would have heavy schedule of meetings
- Suggestion made to try 4 meetings per year

Discussion will continue at January meeting. Committee is open to concept but needs more clarification. Town Administrator will be asked to see if other towns already do this and, if so, how does it work.

W. St. Lawrence brought up non-binding question regarding the charter. All options are not being presented to voters, only that of mayor or current form of government. Discussed were apathy of voters, lack of civility, lack of accountability. Voters should be given choices, not simply a yes or no question.

Pre-Town Meeting: Chairman of Finance Comm. feels he has nothing to contribute to meeting. Town Administrator likes idea. B. Nerz wants meeting televised so all RTM members will have access to it. Coordinating Comm. members could ask questions of department heads who will be invited to discuss their articles.

Questions for Town Administrator: What was the net result of concessions made early on in budget and what was done to help with these concessions when budget improved? What will happen if we get cut again? What information is easily available to RTM?

Meeting adjourned at 8:24 PM.
Next meeting will be on January 11, 2010.