A. **Open Meeting:** Peter Clark opened the meeting at 4:02 PM

B. **Hear General Public Comment:** None.

C. **Discuss and Act on Minutes from February 11, 2019**

   Judy Fenwick moved to approve. David Garrison seconded. All in favor; motion passed.

D. **Review New Committee Emails and Documents:**

   Judy Fenwick noted that she sent copies of 5 charters to committee members in Word Docs.

E. **Discuss and Act on Gender-Neutral Naming of Board of Selectmen**

   Carter Hunt passes out a handout on gender neutrality and led the discussion which included the following:

   • What is (are) the problem(s) to solve?

   Carter Hunt defined the problems:

   The name of the Executive Board of the town of Falmouth as laid out in the existing Town Charter is Board of Selectmen. The term selectman is the traditional Massachusetts’ reference to the leadership of the town and has a deeply rooted history in the Commonwealth.

   Changes over time have shown that an increasing number of women have become involved in these Town leadership positions and as such it has been suggested that the term selectman is not gender neutral.

   Of the 33 towns in the Commonwealth similar in governmental structure to Falmouth, 25 use the term Selectman in their Charter or bylaws, 8 have changed to Select Board. Of the 33 8 refer to
all as selectman, 16 refer to all as Member or Board Member, and one had no reference to either. Those that have changed to Select Board refer to all as Member or Board Member.

The Chair of the Board is referred to as Chairman, Chairwoman, or Chair and Vice Chair.

Committee members had no objections to the problem as defined.

• What are the options to consider; pros and cons of each?
  ○ Retain current traditional references and refer to all as Selectman.
  ○ Retain current name of Board of Selectmen and refer to each according to their gender, i.e. Selectman and Selectwoman
  ○ Retain current name of Board of Selectmen and refer to all as Member or Board Member
  ○ Create another name for the Board, i.e. Executive Board

Comments included
  ○ Man/woman is binary. Neutrality is not mentioning gender at all.
  ○ Selectman may be derived from church practices where deacons were selected by a god. It has been secularized over hundreds of years but still has religious connotations.
  ○ Wikipedia has no mention of church regarding selectman.
  ○ Any change in language needs approval from the AG. Select Board has been approved for a number of towns previously.
  ○ It is important to be similar to other Charters on the Cape though this is not a dominant value.
  ○ If the name is changed to Select Board the gender issue is removed but it is a break from tradition.

• What is the tentative recommendation; how should it be vetted?

A discussion included the following:
  ○ The Board of Selectmen pointed this issue to the CRC.
  ○ If a change is suggested this should be immediately communicated to the Board of Selectmen.
  ○ A protocol should be developed for making recommendations.
  ○ All references to chairman/chairman should be amended to chair.
Should this be done in definitions? Some charters have definitions in the front of the charter.

Carter Hunt moved to recommend a change from Board of Selectmen to Select Board and refer to all members of that body as members. Dave Garrison seconded. All in favor; motion passed.

F. Work Session A: Define the Problem(s):

• Finance/Budget Area; Level of Detail Area: The committee spent 28 minutes working in 2 subgroups to start discussion of 2 identified study areas.

G. Work Session B: Define the Problem(s)

• Executive Authority Area; Committee Effectiveness Area: The committee divided into 2 different groups for 25 minutes to begin studying two added areas.

H. Work Session C: Define the Problem(s)

• Planning Area; Stand-alone Area: A final set of groups began to explore another 2 issue areas for 15 minutes.

I. Discuss New Business:

Judy Fenwick asked that the committee review the use of a Town Meeting Report, especially as it links to future opportunities for further participation.

J. Discuss Committee Procedures; Debrief Work Sessions: The committee debriefed the work sessions with several concerns to be considered: 1) Can the work subgroups be kept the same? 2) How long should work be done in them before returning to full committee discussion? and 3) Can the subgroups meet outside of the posted meeting times? The chair said he would consider all three.

At 5:49 Carter Hunt moved to adjourn. David Garrison seconded.

NEXT MEETING: Monday, March 11, 2019; 4:00 PM
Old Water Department Meeting Room - Town Hall

Relevant Document
Gender Neutrality Issue