

Creation / Mission of the Town Meeting Study Committee

At the 2005 Annual Town Meeting, under Article 64, Mr. James Hugh Powers offered the following Resolution, which was approved by a voice vote:

That the Moderator appoint a committee of seven Town Meeting Members to make a study and investigation of ways and means of strengthening the Representative Town Meeting as the legislative branch of Town Government now having a Town Manager system, such means to include, but not to be limited to –

- (a) The creation of a standing committee of the Town Meeting having legislative oversight and post-audit powers;
- (b) Improvements in the standing committee system of the Town Meeting;
- (c) Improvements in the rules of procedure of the Town Meeting, with a view to enhancing the Town Meeting's role under the Separation of Powers;
- (d) Giving standing committees of the Town Meeting their own independent power to employ staff, subject to appropriation and such approval by the Moderator as the Town may specify by by-law, in lieu of present Charter provisions which, with one exception, require such committee staff to be appointed by the Town Manager; and
- (e) Methods of curbing excessive absenteeism by Town Meeting Members from Town Meeting sessions, which threaten the right of voters in the several precincts to equal representation in the Town Meeting.

Said Committee shall report its findings and recommendations to the Town at the 2006 Annual Town Meeting, or sooner.

Article 21 of the 2006 Annual Town Meeting, a citizen's petition to continue this committee, was approved unanimously. Article 15 of the 2005 Annual Town Meeting, another citizen's petition to continue this committee was approved. The committee was appointed in June 2007 and consists of:

Paul Denver, Chair
Elizabeth Handler, Vice-Chair
Mark Gluesing, Secretary
Susan Abbott
Maureen McCaffrey
Barbara Popper
James Hugh Powers
Greg Shesko
Sally Toran