

Request for People to Volunteer to serve on the Governance Committee

To: Residents of Strafford

From: John Hawkins and David Grant, co-chairs, Governance Committee

In response to a resolution passed at Town Meeting, the Selectboard has asked us to co-chair a study committee to examine options for future town governance and administration, and to report back to the Selectboard and the Town by August 2017.

We are happy to accept this assignment because we think the work of this Governance Committee could have a positive impact in a number of ways. The vision of success we share with the Selectboard is that we will produce recommendations on governance that will serve the Town in both the short and long-run, foster better communication between the Selectboard and other town bodies and commissions, and encourage more people to be knowledgeable, involved and willing to serve the Town.

We are now seeking expressions of interest from other people in town who would like to participate on this Committee. The heart of the task involves research, interviews, and communication. We will:

- Review and compile information on our current structure for accomplishing the business of the Town;
- Investigate models and practices that might increase the effectiveness of town governance and administration, now and in the future;
- Interview current and former town officials and others who have experience and opinions to share;
- Engage townspeople in a public discussion that increases knowledge of town government and understanding of the costs and benefits involved in any changes in current practice.

We expect the Governance Committee to have up to seven people on it, and we are looking for people who do not have pre-determined preferences or conclusions about the outcomes of the study. Ideally, we will have a range of ages and a mix of long-time and more recent residents.

We expect the time commitment will be one in-person meeting a month for the next 6-7 months, with assignments to complete in between the meetings. If you would like to be considered for the committee, please send us a brief note to jfhawkins@gmail.com and dgrant050@gmail.com - or phone at 765-4040 (Hawkins) or 765-4342 (Grant) by September 27th expressing interest and briefly telling us why you would like to serve.

9/15/16