

Community Forum

TOWN OF HAMPDEN
Government Study Committee
December 12, 2023



Welcome!

- ▶ Tonight's Forum is in-person only.
- ▶ Recording is for Committee use only.
- ▶ The Committee is here to listen. We want to hear your thoughts on our Town's government. What do you think is working and what is not?



Overview

At Special Town Meeting on Oct. 24th 2022:

ARTICLE 5

GOVERNMENT STUDY COMMITTEE

The Town voted to authorize creation of a Government Study Committee, appointed by the Moderator, to review all aspects of Hampden Town government and to issue a report with any recommendations to the Annual Town Meeting in May 2024. A Majority Vote was declared by the Moderator.

First meeting of the Government Study Committee was on March 6, 2023.



Committee Members

- ▶ Donna Hatch (Chair)
- ▶ Michal Boudreau
- ▶ Eric Brewer
- ▶ Keith Pixley
- ▶ Luis Severino
- ▶ Cliff Bombard (Ex Officio)
- ▶ John Matthews (Ex Officio)



Interviews to Date

(Information Gathering Phase)

- All three Board of Selectmen members (separately)
- Town Administrator: Bob Markel
- Town Clerk/Tax Collector: Eva Wiseman
- Massachusetts Municipal Association (MMA) Form of Government Committee (FOG)
 - Two representatives via ZOOM
- Board of Health Coordinator: Jane Budynkiewicz
- Town Treasurer: Dick Patullo
- Administrative Assistant: Pam Courtney (since retired)
- Chair, Planning Board: Madison Pixley
- Police Chief: Scott Trombley
- Highway Superintendent: Mark Langone



Discussion Topics

(to date and subject to change)

- Board of Selectman - 3 members vs. 5 members
Open meeting law concerns
- Town Government Positions - Elected vs. Appointed
What is the best way for the Town to fill vacancies?
- Combination/Consolidation of Government Positions (ex. Treasurer and Tax Collector)
Efficiency and statewide trends
- Electronic, handheld voting for Town Meetings
Ability to vote anonymously
- Town Administrator
Better define the role relative to similar communities



Ways to Connect

- ▶ Meetings: Second and fourth Tuesday of the month at 6:30pm
 - ▶ Melville Room
- ▶ Email: HampdenGSC@gmail.com

