

New London's Selectboard exhibits two qualities that are essential for leading a community: open communication and the ability to not lose the big picture while discussing essential details.

Serving on multiple committees and then sharing insights at Board meetings keeps every Board member involved in both the outcomes from committees and their ongoing processes, providing accurate bases for Board decision-making and for supporting intercommunication across the Committees. Withdrawing from most committees would undermine the experiential insights that Committee participation provides and would fragment the basis for strategic alignment across the work of all.

That is equally true for Budget Committee members. The budget covers all aspects of the work of the town. Sitting on other committees provides inside knowledge about what supports the work of a committees, and sharing those insights supports the Budget Committee responsibility to make the tough decisions about prioritizing limited resources.

Finally, what is the basis for "time-limited" panels and dissolving committees.? What assessments have been made about the ongoing nature of the charge of each committee, the work completed and the work ongoing, the future steps needed? What role does self-assessment by the Committees play in understanding the status of their work?

How might the proposal expect to provide better outcomes?

There are way too many questions to be answered before any such changes should even be proposed!

Nancy Marashio