



TOWN OF NEW LONDON, NEW HAMPSHIRE

375 MAIN STREET • NEW LONDON, NH 03257

SB-2 Study Committee Meeting Minutes For: July 2, 2025

Attendees:

Colin Beasely
Ashley Seybold
Rich Epstein
Laura Davis

Bruce Soper
John Ellis
Debbie Stanley
Marilyn Soper

The meeting started at 10 AM

Minutes for the June 11th meeting were approved with 2 minor edits to the draft.

Committee reps reviewed the information each gathered in their research of other Towns' experience with adopting (and in a couple cases adopting and then rescinding) the SB2 form of government. More work is scheduled for this section of the analysis. It was agreed that we should adopt a common way of recording our findings to ensure it can briefly and meaningfully inform the community of other community experiences. Colin suggested looking for some common themes that surface in this part of the research such as community participation in meetings, availability and accuracy of information to the community, budget impacts, etc. Debbie was most advanced in this work and agreed to work on a template that we can follow. Regarding a town's budget schedule, Colin referenced there existed a schedule for a traditional town meeting form of government similar to the SB2 form of government schedule included in the various references document reviewed in the last meeting. He indicated he will get that link to the committee and summarized that the budget information would need to be completed about a month earlier under SB2.

There was some discussion about the link for the town of Hopkinton, NH Public Hearing on SB2 that Colin sent out (received from Karen Epstein, Budget Committee); consensus was that it represented a good dialogue about the change from a traditional town meeting to SB2 form of government. The link to that public hearing is: <https://www.youtube.com/live/MZW3S70-Ge8> (The SB2 material starts at time stamp 33:45 and goes to the end.)

The default budget aspect of an SB2 form of government was briefly discussed with some focus on how towns accommodated employee wage increases with a separate article should the proposed budget be rejected. One interview with a town suggested that a new bill passed in Concord (HR 475) was going to disallow that adjustment to a default budget. Colin raised some

question about that conclusion based on his reading of the statute. Ashley suggested that Lynn Lewis (Finance Director) could help to clarify this issue. Colin took the action to contact Lynn.

Ashley suggested the committee interview town employees; it was agreed that this would be appropriate but should wait until the committee has gathered more insights from the outreach to, and research of other communities' experiences. It was also suggested that the committee should interview some citizens; more discussion of these two items will be scheduled at future meetings.

The meeting needed to end earlier than expected as the conference room was required by another group; the committee quickly went through other items in the work plan. Debbie took the action item to research/document the implementation steps for adopting an SB2 form of government and Colin took the action item to document the definition of the 2 forms of government for review by the committee.

The meeting ended at 11:10 AM

Action Items:

From June 11 Meeting:

Kim Halmquist to identify whether there is any source of information that would identify those towns that proposed a change to SB2 but were not able to secure sufficient voter backing.

From July 2nd Meeting:

Colin to contact Lynn Lewis regarding HB 475.

Colin to document the definition of the two forms of government.

Debbie to propose template to capture town research/interviews.

Debbie to research/document the implementation steps associated with transitioning to a SB2 form of government.