

**VOTER INFORMATION COMMITTEE
SEPTEMBER 16, 2015
MINUTES**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chris Joyce, Chair
Peggy Rose, Clerk
Joanne Rys
Tina Games
Emily Milan

OTHERS: Sue French, Barnstable Citizens Academy
Meg Loughran, Barnstable Citizens Academy

I. Call to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 5:40 PM.

II. Citizens Academy

Sue French and Meg Loughran of the Barnstable Citizens Academy gave the committee a briefing of the purpose of the Citizens Academy and how it functions. They advised that support of the concept of the Citizens Academy has to come from the Town Administrator in order to be successful. They found that having a group of 25 to 30 people is a good number with which to work. One of the sections of the program is devoted to the history of the town. In the following weeks, department heads present programs on the function of their departments. At the end of the session, a graduation is held. Some of the graduates have gone on to volunteer for a town committee or run for an office. They advised that the Citizens Academy does get some funding from the Town Manager's budget.

After the presentation, the Voter Information Committee determined that their next step should be to put together a plan for a Harwich academy that could be presented to the Town Administrator.

III. Approval of Minutes

Under Members Present: to read Tina **Games**.

Ms. Joyce moved to approve the minutes as corrected; Ms. Rys seconded; motion carried unanimously.

IV. Board of Selectmen Committee Handbook Status

The Chair advised that she would bring up the issue when the Voter Information Committee has its annual meeting with the Board of Selectmen on October 13.

V. Committee Web Page

Emily Milan will review and make any updates to the committee page on the town's website.

VI. Programs

A wastewater program and a committee vacancy program were suggested as future programs. A financial state, pretown meeting article discussion and candidates programs will be held in the spring.

VII. Adjourn

There being no further business, the Chair adjourned the meeting at 7:40 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Peggy Rose
Clerk