

City of Essex Junction Governance Committee Meeting Minutes

Thursday, April 10, 2025 @ 6:30 PM

Members present: Thomas Coen, Marlon Verasamy, Brian Shelden, Gabrielle Smith, Steve Eustis, Candace Morgan, Deb McAdoo, Marcus Certa

Members absent: Elaine Haney

Staff Present: Brad Luck

Steve opened the meeting at 6:32 pm.

No change in the agenda.

No public were present to be heard today.

Motion to accept minutes from the March meeting was made by Marlan and seconded by Marcus, unanimously accepted.

Marcus reviewed a presentation on the Three Forms of Government where he shared the three most common models, Council-Manager, Council-Strong Mayor, and Council-Weak Mayor governance structures, and pros and cons associated with each. See the presentation for details.

Next, Brad led us through a review of the committee member's responses to the survey questions that he circulated to the group prior to the meeting. Highlights of this discussion included:

- General agreement that any change we make should only be additive.
- The group expressed a desire to hear challenges and barriers from past and present Council/Trustee members. There was strong leaning toward 5 or 7 members, with the subcommittee work being a significant factor of consideration.
- There was general agreement that the Council choose their Council Leader.
- The length of term for 3 years was the group favorite, and the suggestion of a 2-year term to reduce the length of commitment and remove a potential barrier to participation warranted further exploration.
- The Term Limit conversation included equal pros and cons. The group was curious to learn about other community's experiences with term limits, agreement was for further exploration.

We were able to get through to survey question #5. Next meeting on 4/24/2025 will be remote only and we will finish this survey review. **Members are requested to complete the survey online before the next meeting if possible.**

Deb made a motion to close the meeting, Marlon seconded, and the vote was unanimous. Meeting adjourned at 8:25 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Deb McAdoo