

City of Essex Junction Governance Committee Meeting Minutes

Thursday, November 20, 2025 @ 6:30 PM

Members present: Thomas Coen, Steve Eustis, Elaine Haney, Deb McAdoo, Candace Morgan, Brian Sheldon, Gabrielle Smith, Marlon Verasamy

Absent: Bethany Clark

Staff present: Brad Luck

Members of the public present: None

Chair Steve Eustis called the meeting to order at 6:46 PM.

There were no additions to the agenda, and no members of the public to be heard.

Gabrielle moved to approve the minutes of October 23rd and November 5th. Deb seconded. There were no corrections or comments. The minutes were approved unanimously.

The purpose of this meeting was to discuss community feedback, committee recommendations, and the drafting of a final report.

Brad gave an overview of the various community input opportunities that have occurred and notes from all the conversations.

The committee has been focused on structural reforms but often in conversations with the public a desire for softer reforms came up (a clearer vision, leadership engagement with public).

Deb noted that there were comments emphasizing the usefulness of a mayoral system in terms of economic development. Elaine agreed and Brian also noted similar comments from a small number of residents.

Brad also provided a comprehensive document that organizes community feedback and current/former elected officials feedback together by topic.

Brad shared a draft report that provides background, details, appendices, and—still to be written—the committee’s recommendations.

Steve conducted a straw poll on the different topics to get a sense of whether the committee had reached consensus on which recommendations to make.

Before the next meeting, committee members will review the compiled data and responses so that they can confirm consensus on all items and be prepared for the upcoming City Council meeting.

Deb moved to adjourn, Marlon seconded, and Steve adjourned the meeting at 8:05 PM.