



LEONARD B. KATZMAN
– member –
Portsmouth Town Council



April 16, 2019

Town Clerk – *Via: email*

Dear Clerk West: Please place on the agenda for the 22 April 2019 meeting the following item for discussion and action:

1. Number of members of the West Side Development Advisory Committee

Backup information:

I voted on the motion to expand the membership of the WSDAC from 7 to 11. Since that time, however, I have thought about this a great deal and now believe that I may have supported the expansion with less than full and careful consideration. While I have supported committees with large numbers in the past, those were instances at the inception of those committees such as the formation of the Charter Review Committee. In my experience, committees become well-functioning groups through a process of developing a dynamic among its members. So, for example, when 30 or so individuals embark on an undertaking as a committee, they as a group form the appropriate working relationships and group dynamics that are effective. Likewise, a small committee forms its own working relationships and group dynamics to become, as in the case of the seven-member WSDAC, a well-functioning body. Therefore, I believe, expansion of a small group should be approached with more care and consideration than I appreciated at our last meeting.

I would like to revisit the discussion of the size of the WSDAC. My intention is to minimize the disruption that necessarily comes with bringing new members up to speed. Of note, the WSDAC will already be engaging with new people in the form of the recently-authorized area liaisons, and it is important to manage growth of the committee carefully.

I'd like the Town Council to discuss whether to leave the committee at eleven, go back to seven, or perhaps adopt an incremental approach to any expansion. I have not yet made a determination on the procedural means for doing this, and it may be in the form of a motion to reconsider, a motion to rescind, a motion to amend something previously adopted, or some other form of main motion. The parliamentary posture is best determined at the meeting.

Thank you for placing this on the meeting agenda.

Very truly yours,
Leonard Katzman