

Comparison on Features of Three Basic Models for a Town Health & Wellness Committee

	Town-Chartered Committee	Volunteer Group	Advisory Council of Existing Organizations
Governance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Members require Selectboard approval Have to comply with VT Open Meetings rules (e.g., no discussion/decisions by email) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Can develop own policies and procedures 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Can develop own policies and procedures
Role in Shaping Town Decisions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Defined role in town decision-making 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> May have less influence on town decisions than a town-chartered committee, especially with SB turnover 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Harder to use as a mechanism to advise town government on health impacts of decisions
Fundraising	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Town usually provides budget for town committees Funding limited to town appropriations and grants approved by town 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Free to raise funds as needed Need 501(c)(3) fiscal sponsor to apply for most funds 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> May not need fundraising or fiscal sponsor
Insurance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Town liability insurance covers volunteers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No liability coverage 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No liability coverage
Getting work done	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Selectboard may exert control over projects the committee takes on 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Can set direction based on assessment of town needs Can work with other towns (e.g., in same supervisory union) without having to get Selectboard approvals 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Good way to better coordinate efforts/encourage collaboration Less likely to be a vehicle for taking action on new joint initiatives
Accountability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Accountable to town residents, SB 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No formal accountability 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No formal accountability
Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Can use town resources for town business, e.g. meeting space, copy machine 		