

Charter Review Committee
Meeting Minutes

August 4, 2016

Members Present: Dennis Perron- Chair
Mark Haddad- Vice Chair
Daryl Rynning- Clerk
Roger Currier- member
Tim McInerny - member
Bob DeToma- member

Absent: Don Clark
Also Present:

Meeting Open: 6:30 pm

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1. Chairman's Update: Perron gave a brief update. Perron sent a memo to BOS inviting members to attend the August 4, 2016 meeting. No BOS members attended. CRC continues to want a dialogue with BOS regarding changes to the Town Charter that are under consideration; appointing the Town Clerk, Representative Town meeting, and appointing the Planning Board. CRC would also like a dialogue with the Planning regarding changing that board from being elected to being an appointed board. Perron wrote a question and answer informational sheet regarding Representative Town meeting that will be posted on the CRC website.
2. Comments from the public: None
3. General Business:
 - a. Board of Selectman invited guests to discuss Town Charter- none present
 - b. Review Article 2 with BOS- no members present
 - c. Review Article 3
 - Article 3 section 3-1 (a)- Elective Offices- Haddad proposed to remove the Town Clerk from the elective offices and create a new section. It is proposed that the BOS would be the appointing authority. Vote taken; Haddad motions, McInerny second, motion carries 6-0.
 - Article 3 section 3-2 (d) Appointment- Add the Town Clerk in this paragraph. Vote taken; Haddad motions, McInerny second, motion carries 6-0.
 - Article 3 section 3-4 School Committee- sections a and b. Typo in section a saying " There shall be no School Committee"; remove the word "no" from that sentence. Vote taken to have paragraphs 1 and 2 of section 3-4 (b) Powers and Duties go to Town Counsel for review,

refer also to Mass. General Law. Haddad motions, McInerny second, motion carries 6-0.

- Article 3 section 3-5- Town Clerk- Vote taken to remove section 3-5, create a section under Article 5 - section 5-7, and change term of office to add that the Town Clerk will be appointed (appointing of Town Clerk will require a job description and qualifications for the job) . Haddad motions, McInerny second, motion carries 6-0.
 - Article 3 section 3-5- Vote taken to add to Article 5 a section 5-7 (c), language to be provided. McInerny motions, Haddad second, motion carries 6-0.
 - Article 3 - Vote taken to renumber all sections. Haddad motions, Currier second, motion carries 6-0.
 - Article 3 section 3-6 Planning Board- General discussion about the pro's and cons of changing the Planning from being elected to appointed. McInerny gave reasons to make the change; 1. No-one ran for the Planning during this election cycle. 2. Current planning is difficult to work with and getting applications through the planning board takes a long time. 3. Accountability- meaning answering to the Board of Selectman, who are perceived to have more authority to make changes if necessary, rather than answering to the voters, who may or may not ever interact with the Planning board. No votes taken on making the change- more information is needed from the public, the Planning Board and the BOS.
 - Vote taken on spelling and grammatical improvements to Article 3. Haddad motions, Rynning second, motion carries 6-0.
- d. Vote to accept meeting minutes from July 21, 2016- No minutes provided
- e. General Business Discussion:
- Return to Article 2- Representative Town meeting- need to hear from the public and the BOS.
 - Set public hearing date for September 15, 2016 from 6:30-7:00 in Meeting Room A. McInerny will draft a notice to review and vote on for the August 18, 2016 CRC meeting.
 - Currier followed up with the Finance Committee- asked them if they needed any changes made to the time frame(s) that warrant information is due to them (per the Charter). Finance Committee said no changes were necessary.
 - Ethics question posed to McInerny- McInerny followed up with the state Ethics Commission- he was told he can advocate for changes to the Town Charter, but not to his specific job duties and responsibilities, as long as he does not use town resources.
 - It was suggested that a Survey Monkey be developed and launched through the CRC website to solicit public feedback on the proposed major changes to the Town Charter. McInerny to follow up.

- It was suggested to ask Town Counsel if the grammatical and spelling changes (minor changes that do not affect the meaning of the Charter) need to be voted on at Town Meeting.
 - Currier brought his copy of the Charles H. Nelson Will (as it relates to the Town Charter) and gave copies to the CRC.
4. Correspondence:
- Elizabeth Putnam sent email to the CRC- she is against Representative Town Meeting.
 - Cindy Ide sent email to the CRC- would like to see both Charter Committees have a specific number of members listed in the Town Charter. Right now it is open ended.
 - Barry Smith sent two emails to the CRC. He did an extensive review of Articles 1,2, and 3. He emailed the edits that he would recommend. The grammatical and spelling errors have been noted by the CRC. All the edits to Article 3 were considered on air. Please watch or request the video for the July 21, 2016 CRC meeting to see specific comments.
 - The CRC sincerely thanks all citizens who take the time and effort to contact the Committee and make suggestions. All suggestions are welcome and considered.
5. Adjournment: 7:55 pm. DeToma motioned for adjournment, Haddad second. Motion carries 6-0.

Respectfully Submitted by Daryl Rynning
Citizen email attachments on file