

Minutes of Charter Review Committee

6/13/2018

Ritter Building

Call to Order: 7:05

Present: Bob Ebersole (Selectmen), Jaime Toale (Selectmen), Mark Erickson (Finance Committee), Nancy Gray (Community Representative), Heather Sroka (School Committee), Jim LaVeck (School Committee), Steve Archambault (Community Representative) (arrived late)

Absent: Michael-Ray Jeffreys (Planning Board), Terri Burchfield (Finance Committee)

Also present: Katie Adams

Chairman Ebersole welcomed new members Heather and Jim.

Jim raised a question: Is there a conflict with Steve and his wife (school employee)? Bob said no; Steve would recuse himself if needed.

Minutes of 4/5/2018: Jamie moved to approve; Mark seconded; all in favor.

Public comment: Katie Adams said she enjoyed her time on the charter review committee and she is only leaving because she has joined the BOS and was not reappointed.

Review public hearing feedback

- Our report
- Minority report
- Commission comments
- Public comments

Bob's comment: Public hearing should have been earlier in the process; cancelled due to weather. When we had the hearing, we got lots of good feedback. Bob attended follow on meetings with several boards to apologize for lack of clarity on some of the changes. Town Manager has met with various commissions to clarify the hiring process; we will further clarify language.

Care and maintenance of cemetery, BOH, parks need to be clarified.

Appointment of Town Accountant: concern on checks and balances; what do other towns do?

Town Clerk split opinion; same on selectmen/selectboard.

Bring back discussion on minimum votes for a candidate not on the ballot.

Won't be revisiting representative TM nor term limits.

Two annual meetings: some support for it but more work is needed.

Heather said the School Committee recommends that they "appoint" the superintendent.

Jamie: consider stand-alone items for making changes to charter.

Bob: The process for elected charter commission is different; first charter set out a new process as "special act charter." Consider 3 types of changes: typographical, minor change, significant change; have separate vote for each significant change.

Work backwards from our target date to set a schedule. Mark: plan in both directions, one to set a target, one to validate the plan.

Jamie: We need to work with various committees during the process and make sure there's enough time in the schedule to accommodate meetings with them.

Bob: We seek input but at the end it's a recommendation from this commission

Bob: We need to revisit committee assignments; Mark willing to keep his assignments; Jamie willing to keep his assignments; Nancy willing to keep her assignments.

Katie's assignments need to be covered. Mike's assignments need to be covered. Jim said APDC also was not covered.

Bob will assemble a list of assignments; this will inform if we want to bring other committees to meet with us.

Review schedule

Talked about timing of fall town meeting and the likely date for a special TM. Proposed bylaw: second Tuesday in Nov (Nov 13).

Working backwards from this date, we would need to have wording complete by the mailing date for the warrant, say first week of Oct (Oct 8). Public hearing first week of Sep. Mark: We should consider having two (at least) public hearings. Jamie: We may want to target spring TM because this schedule may not be doable. All agreed.

Report out (interim) at Fall TM, hold a public hearing shortly afterward, hold another public hearing once we do our follow up work.

Jamie: We should meet as soon as we can to set the schedule and make committee assignments. Plan to meet Jun 27, whoever can make it.

Bob will organize what we already have into the three categories.

Time is of the essence but we all agree to target ATM.

Jim: He wasn't on the committee but he thought we did a good job.

Bob: We should prepare a pros and cons document for both side of controversial issues.

Jamie: Consider whether we need a super majority or a simple one; we should have a process discussion.

Adjournment: Jamie moved to adjourn at 7:44, Mark seconded, unanimous

Respectfully submitted: Mark Erickson

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AUG 09 2018

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CLERK OFFICE**