

Charter Review Committee January 5, 2021
Minutes

Members present: Larry Levine, Phil Adams, Bill Fonseca, Jeff Bosworth, Tom Christensen, Ralph Page, Marilyn Richards, and Jeanne Quaglietti (non-voting)

Members absent: Andy Fraser, and Michael Kane (ex-officio, non-voting)

Meeting was held via Zoom and called to order at 4:30 PM by Chairman Larry Levine. Meeting was being videotaped by ELCAT and there were no audience members taping.

Minutes of the December 22, 2020 meeting motion to accept made by Marilyn, seconded by Bill, no discussion. Roll call vote: Bill-yes, Marilyn-yes, Larry-yes, Ralph-yes, Phil-yes, Jeff-yes, and Tom-yes.

Minutes of the December 29, 2020, meeting motion to accept made by Bill, seconded by Phil, no discussion. Roll call vote: Bill-yes, Marilyn-yes, Larry-yes, Ralph-yes, Phil-yes, Jeff-yes, and Tom-yes.

The committee resumed the conversation where we left off on the December 29th meeting with suggestions made by Kathy Hill. Chairman Levine spoke with Kathy Hill yesterday pertaining to her 2nd suggestion on Article 3, section 2, 1st paragraph, which would add Town Clerk/Clerk of the Council to the Town Charter. Kathy had been using an older version of the Town Charter, and as a result we can remove that suggestion as that has already been included.

Chairman Larry Levine read the 5th suggestion (Article 7, section 1) by Kathy Hill, seeking any comments, suggestions and/or questions from the members present. Ralph spoke and indicated that he thought that the State of Massachusetts required a length of time between a primary election. Jeanne will research this and get back to the committee with her findings.

Chairman Larry Levine read the 6th suggestion (Article 7, section 3(b & c) by Kathy Hill, seeking any comments, suggestions and/or questions from the members present. Chairman Levine suggested that this is one that we have to ask Kathy her thoughts on this suggestion. Bill stated that we should invite Kathy at our next meeting for clarification, members present agreed.

Chairman Larry Levine read the 7th suggestion (Article 8, section 1) by Kathy Hill, seeking any comments, suggestions and/or questions from the members present. Marilyn made a motion to take the suggested wording for Article 8, section 1, as written by Kathy Hill, to include the deletion of the language in section 1. Seconded by Phil. Roll call vote: Bill-yes, Marilyn-yes, Larry-yes, Ralph-yes, Phil-yes, Jeff-yes, and Tom-yes.

Chairman Larry Levine read the 8th suggestion (Article 8, section 3 (d)) by Kathy Hill, seeking any comments, suggestions and/or questions from the members present. No action Taken

Chairman Larry Levine read the 9th suggestion (Article 8, section 3 (e)) by Kathy Hill, seeking any comments, suggestions and/or questions from the members present. No action taken

Chairman Larry Levine read the 10th suggestion (Article 8, section 4 (a)) by Kathy Hill, seeking any comments, suggestions and/or questions from the members present. Chairman Levine asked how? Phil stated that we should invite Kathy at our next meeting for her thoughts on this suggestion as well as the 6th suggestion, members present agreed.

Ralph made a suggestion pertaining to Article 3, section 2, subsection 5. Chairman Larry Levine read Ralph's suggestion seeking any comments, suggestions and/or questions from the members present. After much discussion pertaining to article 3, section, 2, subsection 5, Chairman Levine proposed the following additions and/or new wording to read: Shall fix the compensation, including but not limiting to stipends, of all Town employees appointed by the Town manager within the limits established by existing appropriations. Notwithstanding, any increase for any Town employee in compensation or stipends exceeding 10% in any fiscal year shall require approval by Town Council. Ralph made a motion to accept the above wording for Article 3, section 2, subsection 5, seconded by Bill. Roll call vote: Bill-yes, Marilyn-yes, Larry-yes, Ralph-yes, Phil-yes, Jeff-yes, and Tom-yes.

Ralph made a suggestion pertaining to adding to Article 2, section 6, directly after paragraph 4. Chairman Larry Levine read Ralph's suggestion seeking comments, suggestions and/or questions from the members present. After some discussions on Ralph's thoughts about the re-codification of all Town bylaws, it was decided that we would continue discussion at our next meeting pertaining to how to report these changes.

Ralph made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Jeff. Roll call vote: Bill-yes, Marilyn-yes, Larry-yes, Ralph-yes, Phil-yes, Jeff-yes, and Tom-yes. The meeting adjourned at 5:35 PM.

The next meeting of the Charter Review Committee via Zoom webinar is scheduled for Tuesday, January 12, 2021, starting at 4:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Philip J. Adams