

Charter Review Committee February 23, 2021 Meeting Minutes

Members present: Larry Levine, Jeff Bosworth, Tom Christensen, Bill Fonseca, Ralph Page, Marilyn Richards (alternate voting), and Jeannie Quaglietti (non-voting) Andy Fraser entered at 4:32
Members Absent: Phil Adams, Mike Kane (ex-officio, non-voting)

Meeting was held via Zoom and called to order at 4:30pm by Chair Levine.

Meeting was being audio and videotaped by ELCAT and there were no audience members taping.

Motion to approve minutes of February 2, 2021 made by Jeff Bosworth, seconded by Ralph Page. Discussion of Article 2 Sec 6 in which a question was put forth by Andy if the phrase prefaced by the (2) (But shall be prepared in such a way to clearly identify the changes be proposed in the codification process") in the middle of the paragraph should be eliminated. Jeff agreed to the amendment to the motion and Ralph seconded. Roll call vote: Bill-yes, Larry-yes, Jeff-yes, Marilyn-yes, Tom-yes, Ralph-yes, and Andy-Yes.

Charter Revision comments from members of the committee on the revised draft.

1. Jeff Bosworth's comments Section 3-2, #1 – Town Manager Powers and Duties line 7. No change. Article 1-7 under Definitions: The first word to be defined will be in bold letters to make them stand out.
2. Jeanne Quaglietti's comments: Article 10 Sec 9 Line indention correction. Other minor corrections.
3. Ralph Page's comments: Suggested that the 2 paragraphs and the single line following the preamble to be placed on a separate page. It was discussed that this would be done after the Charter goes to the Town Council for approval so that they will know what the committee proposed here. This will not appear in the final Charter revision.
4. Andy Fraser's comments: How are draft minutes accounted for? No role only approved minutes.
5. Tom Christensen's Comment: Accuracy of the Table of Contents. Article 3-3 (b) corrected to 6 months in last two lines of paragraph.

Discussion of Pat Henry's letter of February 4, 2021 to the committee. Powers of the Council vs the Manager. Further discussion of Pat's proposed solution #3 ensued as to whether to remove the Council veto authority on all board appointments. The remainder of this discussion was to be continued at the next meeting on March 2nd.

Discussion continued with points Ralph Page brought up: Ralph brought up that he would like to remove the word "regular" from the phrase wherever written in the Charter at Article 3-2, #1 "unless rejected by a majority of Town Council members by roll call vote within 45 days of the Town's Manager's presentation the name and qualifications of the recommended candidate for the position to the Town Council or at the next regular Town Council meeting, whichever comes first". The reason being that the Council is only scheduled to meet once a month and it could be that The Council could schedule a special meeting to handle this matter earlier. By removing the word "regular" from the Charter this would allow the Council to be able to hold a special meeting and therefore cut down the time frame from acting on the matter. This would apply to 3-2, 16 line 8 and 5-4 next to last line.

Motion made by Ralph Page to remove the word “regular” as described above from Article 3-2, #1, 3-2, #16 line 8, and 5-4 first paragraph next to last line. Seconded by Bill Fonseca. Roll call vote: Bill-yes, Larry-yes, Jeff-yes, Marilyn-yes, Tom-yes, Ralph-yes, Andy-yes

Ralph’s next suggestion: Article 6-3 Capital Improvement Program under (d) second line refers to plan instead of program and also in (b). Ralph motioned to change the word to Plan from program throughout 6-3 to be uniform. Seconded by Tom. Roll call vote: Bill-yes, Larry-yes, Jeff-yes, Marilyn-yes, Tom-yes, Ralph-yes, Andy-yes

Ralph’s next suggestion: Article 8-1 use of printed name on petitions in addition to signatures
Tabled until the next meeting

Discussion of letter submitted by Christine Saulier regarding Article 6-1: Regarding School Budget and whether the Town manager has a right to change what the School Committee proposed.
Continued to the next meeting.

Next meeting will be March 2, 2021 at 4:30 pm

Motion to adjourn made by Jeff seconded by Marilyn Roll call vote: Bill-yes, Larry-yes, Jeff-yes, Marilyn-yes, Tom-yes, Ralph-yes, and Andy-yes

Respectfully submitted by

Jeffery Bosworth