

Charter Committee Minutes

June 21, 2023

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Bueno at 6:31 PM

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll call of committee members:

Present: Morgan Dawicki, Cathy Melanson, Lilia Cabral-Bernard, Robert Grindrod, Marybeth Vargas, Ronnie Medina, Kyle Bueno

Ms. Brendalee Smith running late: Entered meeting approx. 5 min after roll call vote and approval of minutes. Roll call vote to acknowledge her attendance. Unanimous

Approval of May 17, 2023 minutes.

Motion made to approve minutes Ms. Melanson, seconded Ms. Cabral-Bernard. Roll call vote unanimous 7-0 to approve.

Public Comment: None

Discussion/Action Items

1. Master Charter document discussion

Bob sent new index; Mr. Bueno resent master document. Kyle opened discussion to committee members if work done made sense, adding to index. Discussion ensued. Discussion regarding adding the 21 committees or separate place to list them in document. Possibly having statement that selectboard appoints all committees except elected ones. This would be under Article II, section 2.

During Bobs review found a couple of things needing clarification that may be conflict with bylaws. Treasurer/Tax collector/director of finance same position, appointed by Selectboard not TA. 6/14/21

Also, Board of Assessors appointed by selectboard not TA, referring to Bylaw 37.3 6/4/21

Division of purchasing/purchasing officer appointed by Selectboard not TA, referring to Bylaw 37.4

Ms. Melanson will check with TA tomorrow as she will be in town hall.

TA Angie Lopes Ellison joined meeting at 7 PM.

Clarification was asked regarding above mentioned bylaws and positions.

Ms. Ellison states Special Legislation trumps bylaws and that because of this she does the appointing to former mentioned positions. In regards to purchasing officer, referred to as procurement officer the TA is procurement officer to town currently but this is appointed position of Selectboard. They can appoint whoever they feel has necessary qualifications for position.

Discussion from committee on adding hierarchy of authorities to eliminate any confusion/questions on who governing authority is. Section or statement on what

supersedes what. Special Acts MA general law (special legislation) supersedes all, next are charters then bylaws. Bylaws can be changed at town meeting. Group feels that we should create a statement above Article I referring to it as Authorities. Cathy, Lilia and Brendalee to work on this.

2. Future of Charter work;

Kyle will be leaving for new job in DC and giving recommendations for future direction of charter. Feels charter should be review every five years and committee should be formed using TA search committee format. Moderator appointing some elected officers from town, DPW, finance committee as well as 2-3 citizens.

Review completed charter with other department/committees for suggestions/review.

Setting up meetings with Selectboard and the public to look at completed document

Lastly go to Town Meeting for vote.

3. Action: reorganization of committee

Kyle nominating Mr. Dawicki for chair position, seconded by Bob.

Asking if any other nominations are present. None. Mr. Dawicki accepting chair position Roll call vote unanimous 8-0.

Vice Chair: Ms. Melanson nominating Ms. Cabral-Bernard. No other requests for position, Ms. Cabral-Bernard accepting nomination. Roll call vote unanimous 8-0.

Secretary: Ms. Melanson nominating Marybeth. seconded by Mr. Dawicki. No other requests for position. Ms. Vargas accepted nomination. Roll call vote unanimous 7-0 (Mr. Medina absent from vote).

Next meeting: Wednesday July 19th at 6:30 PM

Other/New Business: None

Review Action Items

1, Add language in beginning of charter regarding authorities. Making reference to Ma Law, charters, bylaws. To be completed by Ms. Cabral-Bernard, Ms. Smith and Ms. Melanson. Along with section on responsibilities.

2. Ms. Vargas will work with Mr., Dawicki replacing Kyle in group.

3. Mr. Bueno will work with Mr., Dawicki on transition to chair and connect with clerk to create agenda.

Questions/comments : Kyle thanking committee and also Ms. Ellison for her guidance

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn made by Ms. Cabral-Bernard, seconded by Bob. Roll call vote unanimous 8-0.

Meeting adjourned by Mr. Bueno at 7:45 PM

Marybeth Vargas

Secretary to Charter Committee