

Charter Committee Meeting

October 6 . 2023

The meeting was called to order by Mr.Dawicki at 6:34 PM

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll call of committee members:

Present: Morgan Dawicki, Lilia Cabral-Bernard, Robert Grindrod , Brendalee Smith, Marybeth Vargas

Others present: Fairhaven TV , Town Council Heather White

Approval of September 20, 2023 minutes.

Motion made to approve minutes Bob seconds by Ms. Smith, Roll call vote unanimous 5-0 to approve.

Public Comment: None

Discussion/Action Items

1. Introduction by of her job/role by Town Council Heather White. Has experience with transitions to charters. Discussion regarding committee plan and approach to charter. Town council has copy of draft to review. Explained charters and towns we used to help put together the draft. Having some difficulty navigating the bylaws, special acts. Discussion from group on plans for charter moving forward.
2. Heather White will review charter and conduct general overview for inconsistencies with state laws.
Needs to know why are we doing this , what is the main goal of creating this charter. Important to create a comprehensive document that becomes one source of authority that governs everything , the Town's Constitution. The charter has to have adaptability and flexibility.
She will do a general skim through of the work done. Look for places for differences in what is proposed and what's in place.
Look at things like MA General laws , special acts , and bylaws.
Final paper needs to be submitted to Town meeting for approval , then if approved to the legislator. Then selectboard would have to file a petition to be reviewed by Attorney General.
The committee can decide whether to submit it to town for a vote.
Heather suggests as draft completed to set up meetings with department heads for them to review.
Timeline: Having something by end of year that is presentable to get feedback.
Town meeting is in April need to get on warrant in March.

Next meeting: Wednesday November 8th at 6:30 PM

Other/New Business: None

Review Action Items

1. Update organizational chart to be sent to Town Council
2. Questions on any sections can email Heather

Questions/comments : All members in agreement that charter should go to town vote if passes Town Meeting.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn made by Ms. Cabral-Bernard, seconded by Bob. Roll call vote unanimous 5-0.

Meeting adjourned by Mr. Dawicki at 7:15 PM

Marybeth Vargas

Secretary to Charter Committee