

## CHARTER COMMITTEE MINUTES

March 14 , 2024

### MEMBERS PRESENT:

Lillia Cabral-Bernard, Cathy Melanson, Marybeth Vargas Morgan.Dawicki , Robert Grindrod

Arrived late: BrendaLee Smith

**Others Present:** Fairhaven TV , Heather (TC)

The meeting was called to order by Morgan Dawicki at 6:35PM.

### Pledge allegiance

Roll call of committee members :Ms. Cabral-Bernard, Ms.Melanson, ,Ms. Vargas , Mr. Dawicki , Mr. Grindrod

**Approval of minutes:** A motion to approve the minutes from February 22, 2024 was made by Cathy seconded by Lillia , approved unanimously by roll call vote

**Public Comment :** None

### Discussion/Actions:

1. Met last meeting with Heather(TC) and meeting before with Mark (TM) to discuss recommended changes .Group talked through each point. Morgan sent copies marked 11 March 2024 which incorporated all discussion and also sent previous copy from Heather. Morgan opens discussion to group about recommended changes and decisions made last meeting. Heather is on remotely and will share screen of document for Marc11. Group has decided to go in order through document.
  - T.A. keep at 180 days
  - Authority for Collective Bargaining , want to add part that financial obligation needs to be approved , financially by Town Meeting members, Discussion regarding this point by committee members. Heather will come back to group with proposed language.
  - Chart populated with numbers. Will know at election if Town Clerk to be appointed .Will need to revisit. Also noted Planning Board number 8, Heather question if discussion happened with Board. Discussion with group about this change.
  - Housing Authority, group removed mission but wanted to keep point of board, Heather agrees language is ok.
  - Question where Section 3 begins , Public Works. Some copying error when doing new document. At some point need to go through and reformat.
  - Town Moderator: Heather would like to clear up what language means as proposed by committee. The two circumstances in when there may be need to replace moderator, First, if actual vacancy for moderator during term and the second if moderator during Town Meeting needs to recuse himself on topic. Discussion by Heather and committee members regarding some issues that may happen as worded currently. Reviewed old version but still have some questions regarding clarity. Looking to give him authority to

appoint assistant on meeting per meeting basis. Discussion continued among members and Heather.

- Circulation of warrants (Pg 16/17) Currently 2 weeks by Special Acts , groups change to 21 days , may not be feasible to finalize in longer time. Example: school budget relies on state numbers. Discussion of this with members and Heather. Heather stating Warrant only has to give notice of subjects to be delivered , it does not actually have to have numbers on it. Warrant is general notice of the topics ; numbers have to be finalized by the time there is a motion on the floor at Town Meeting. Discussion continues on this topic. During discussion brought up then there should be some type article or section that require boards to meet deadlines for finance committee and Town Members to review. Suggested putting hold on this so Heather can review where departments have deadlines for budgets.
  - Finance Committee: question of tense needing change
  - School committee discussion of changing member number to odd amount
2. Notes Heather had regarding a few things . Process in terms of bringing the bylaws to conformance with the Charter. Option for review of Charter and Bilwa review Committee. Discussion by group. bylaw review is actually already there but can't find Charter review committee. Is under General Provisions currently. Question about index, Heather states wait until very end
  3. Deadline for submission: just need a draft. Technically final copy would need to be ready day of Town Meeting. Question when Selectboard closing the Warrant , may be place holder on Warrant but may be too late. If not too late can get place holder on the Warrant, question enough time to discuss with other departments that need to review document , get more public input. It would go a long way to get public input to get this passed. Discussion about time and possibility of doing the fall meeting
  4. Next Steps: in agreement of not trying to rush this and approach committees that are affected by recommended changes.do we want to wait until after this Town Meeting to reduce anxieties about it. Agree to wait until after May 4 but to continue working on it. Need keep running list of things that may be considered for changes in first 5-year review. May add as attachment recommendations for future which we did not change.
  5. Next Meeting: First week of April 4, Thursday at 6;30

**Items / New Business:** None

**Action Items:** Wait to hear back from Heather

**Question/Comments:** None

### **Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn made by Bob , seconded by Cathy . Roll call vote .Motion to adjourn approved unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 7:55 PM

Marybeth Vargas

Recording Secretary to Charter Committee