

Charter Committee Minutes

April 4, 2024

Members Present: Morgan Dawicki, Lilia Cabral-Bernard, Cathy Melanson, Robert Grindrod

Absent: Marybeth Vargas

Others Present: Fairhaven TV, Doug Brady, a Select Board Member

Meeting called to order by Morgan Dawicki at 6:40 P

Roll call of committee members: Cathy Melanson, Morgan Dawicki, Lilia Cabral-Brenard and Robert Grindrod

Approval of minutes: Minutes not available

Public Comment: None

Discussion/Action

1. Review of edits from Town Counsel from last meeting. Morgan asking if everyone received it yesterday. Bob did not receive it. Morgan sharing document to screen.
 - a. First was section 2.2 part of TA Act, added piece about town and selectboard approving bargaining agreement, added piece of allocation of funds.(Page 6)Discussion, everyone good with need verbiage.
 - b. Planning board: Cathy states Planning Board wants to keep it to 8, they have had no problem with it. Lillia brings up we are going to reach out to the board as a committee.
 - c. Bob brings up to look at page 14 Section 5, Section 6 is missing. Morgan will add note to see if it got deleted or section moved
 - d. Page 16 Section 4-2 Town Moderator. Discussion at last meeting regarding needed changes. Changes reviewed and discussed by members. Committee agrees to new language that is present.
 - e. Posting warrants/budget last meeting agreed to keep the 2 weeks
 - f. Bob wanted to look at Page 6 and 7 letters m, n and p things in town bylaw. TC felt not needed, Morgan stating in Feb meeting we decided to keep it.
No further questions or discussions on this by committee.
2. Discussion regarding submitting report to Town meeting. Did not meet deadline to submit Charter. Suggests we submit a draft version for Town Meeting to look at as a report. Lillia states she also spoke with Mark regarding getting public feedback before doing that. Suggests possibly having a 4-5-page report on what we are doing for Town meeting. Discussion among group regarding this and when group feels when it would be appropriate to officially release the draft. Discussed having an Executive summary to release to the town.
3. Review of comments to Town Administrator Act. Received a letter from Mr. Doug Brady. Letter read by Morgan, Discussion by committee. The following are his questions:

- a. Are we conducting review of TA Act, making changes as needed? Lillia notes that at recent Selectboard meeting felt this was Charter Committees job, Concerns were in relation to hiring and firing, Lillia looked at some other Charter and saw difference was they added TA needs to give 15 days to Selectboard to approve/ disapprove hiring/firing. Feels we should add this. Discussion continues about appointing/removing town employees under TA. Selectboard member and Mr. Brady present. Question from Morgan is this committee going to do a review of TA Act. Members in agreement that we should. Discussion by committee. Also Mr. Brady spoke on issue and would like a thorough review of the entire law that was passed in 2014. Committee members provided responses to Mr. Brady . members in agreement to look at it further.

Next meeting: Next meeting Thursday May 9, at 6:30

New Business; Bob would like to take note that the change in Town Clerk from elected to appointed was voted down. Was 3rd thing that was voted down by the town and we need to think ahead

Action Items:

1. Morgan will add changes to draft as needed.
2. Conduct review of TA section of Charter
3. Executive Summary draft will be created by Morgan. ? if timeline needed. Mogan will check with Mark

Motion to adjourn

Motion made to adjourn by Cathy , seconded by Lillia. Roll call vote to adjourn unanimous. Meeting adjourned at 7:24 PM.

Marbeth Vargas

Secretary for Charter Committee