

Charter Committee Minutes

April 10 , 2025

Members Present: Morgan Dawicki, Cathy Melanson , Brendalee Smith , Lilia Cabral-Bernard , Marybeth Vargas

Meeting called to order by Morgan Dawicki at 631 PM

Roll call of committee members: Morgan Dawicki, Cathy Melanson , BrendaLee Smith, Lilia Cabral-Bernard, Marybeth Vargas

Public Hearing for Charter Committee

1. Opening remarks from Morgan discussing the working draft of the Town of Fairhaven Charter
2. Powerpoint presentation from Lilia Cabral-Bernard

Public Comment

Mark Sullivan Precinct 4

1. Would like to know if Charter can be amended at Town meeting
2. Asking about 4-year term for Planning Board,
3. Town meeting representatives : ? any way to look at the quorum structure. As stands unable to ever meet quorum at precinct meetings prior to Town meetings, possibly do a percentage . Possibly Town moderator will know more about the structure.

Becky Jenkinson Precinct 4

1. Precincts quorums make it difficult to become Town Meeting members. There is a lack of being agile. Need to make it easier for people to become involved.

Mark Sullivan Precinct 4

1. Does the Charter need a majority or 2/3rd vote to pass ?

Despira Longinidis Precinct 4

1. Want to know if there are checks and balances. Feels there is a problem between departments.
2. Questions same people being on multiple boards. Feels there should something to dictate how many boards someone can be on

Doug Brady Precinct 4

1. Section I : wants words prior approval added

2. Section K : consider adding reorganizing any structure /infa structure. Feels selectboard should be involved in the decisions
3. Section N : Selectboard suggest adding
Question who is appointing authority. Suggests Selectboard should review elected verses TA who is appointed.
4. Signing of contracts: feels TA should not be allowed to bind Town into 3 year or longer contracts. Also, there should be dollar amount Possibly higher than \$150,000 over length of contract. For example, recent dispatcher contract for 5 years.
5. Question on contracts that state Selectboard or Town meeting can not lower money.? Wording of contracts based on appropriation of Town meeting to lower/raise
Feels it binds Town hands.
6. Paperwork for Committee member : wants wording to say should provide 48 hours

Mark Sullivan

1. Suggests 60 percent , 1/3rd of precinct be changed to 20%

Doug Brady

1. agrees that quorum requirements should be changed
2. page 23: Section B 7-5 added paragraph
3. Page 23 C ; each multiple member board should provide 48-hour notice . question adding documents shall be provided to all members
4. He will email all his suggestions in writing to the committee

Morgan reviewed Committee changes to Charter mostly involving Executive Board and TA

Discussion regarding Page 23 and review of Charter .Will review all suggestions at the next meeting after next public meeting

Next public meeting: April15 at 6:30

Motion to Adjourn:

No Motion to adjourn as meeting will be open for public comment.

Marybeth Vargas

Secretary Charter Committee