

Charter Committee Minutes

November 29, 2023

Meeting called to order by Mr.Dawicki at 6:40PM

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll call of committee members

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

Others Present: Fairhaven TV , Heather White Town Council

Approval of October 6, 2023 minutes. Motion to approve, Cathy Melanson, seconded by Lilia Cabral-Bernard

Approved unanimously 4-0

Public Comment: None

Discussion/Action Items

Update from Town Council : Heather sent around marked up version. Not all committee members received it. She verified she sent it November 7th, will resend to Morgan/Cathy Shared screen to review with members. She realizes sections were broken into parts for members to work on, suggests we get input from each department moving forward. Review of each section by Town Council.

Mentions Section 1 confusing: has information not needed. Discussion from members regarding this.

Others sections reviewed individually with comments and discussion throughout. Feels section with Planning board having 8 members needs to be changed to odd number 5 or 7 , making provisions for elected members to complete terms. Would take affect when seat opens up or term has ended. No elected official gets kicked out as they were voted in by the people.

Housing authority: section ¾ more detail needed about Health Agent.

Feels Town Clerk should be changed to appointed position as often there are not enough qualified candidates that live in town. General discussion among group regarding this part of charter.

Article V Financial Department Heather feel this article needs to be worked on. Question removing it. Director of finance none currently, Treasurer/collector under umbrella of department of finance. Question more work on highlighting roles that reflect current practice. Can describe existing roles. There is a Capital Plan so some details can be removed.

Budget Calander is defined in Town Administrator Act; Heather has some concern about section regarding accessing public records.

Took out purchasing as it is covered by TA Act . Discussion about recommendations/changes.

Article VI is in conflict with TA Act.

VIII Public Safety question removing this. Discussion with committee members and town Council regarding comments/changes

Heather recommends the next step would be for committee to accept changes , will give committee members a workable document

She feels it would be best to talk to all department heads regarding proposed charter to get feedback.

She will send out clean copies and speak to TA Angie regarding meeting with department heads.

Next meeting: TBD possibly 3rd week of December 20

Other/New Business: none

Action Items:

Heather to get copies to group and speak with TA Angie regarding meeting with departments

Morgan to confirm date next meeting and send out clean copies of charter

Questions/comments: none

Adjournment: motion to adjourn made by Lilia seconded by Cathy. Unanimous 4-0 Meeting adjourned by Mr. Dawicki at 7:37PM

Marybeth Vargas

Secretary to Charter Committee