

**FAIRHAVEN CHARTER COMMITTEE MINUTES**

**November 18, 2021**

**MEMBERS PRESENT :** Lillia Cabral-Bernard, Kyle Bueno, Morgan Dawicki, Robert Grindrod, Ronnie Medina, Cathy Melanson, Brendalee Smith, Marybeth Vargas

**Members Absent:** None

**Others Present:** Fairhaven TV

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Bueno, chair at 6:30 PM.

Pledge of Allegiance

There was a roll call of committee members.

Ms. Cabral-Bernard, Mr. Bueno, Mr. Dawicki, Mr. Grindrod, Mr. Medina, Ms. Melanson, Ms. Smith, Ms. Vargas

**Approval of minutes**

Motion made to amend today's agenda, which incorrectly lists approval of 10/14/21 minutes, with the correct date of 10/28/21 made by Mr. Medina. Seconded by Ms. Vargas

A motion to approve the minutes from October 28, 2021 was made by Ms.

Cabral-Bernard seconded by Ms. Melanson, approved 8-0 unanimously by roll call vote

**Public Comment**

None

**Discussion/Actions:**

1. Charter Committee open seat: Mr. Gallagher resigning seat on committee for job related reasons. Mr. Sylvia, town moderator, to post vacancy on town website asking for letter of interest to be submitted to him. Will try to fill the vacancy as soon as possible. Mr. Bueno states committee can still meet/vote as we have a quorum to do so. Linda Fredette, acting Town Clerk, aware of vacancy.
2. Town Meeting Update: Received letter regarding submitting our committee's information for Annual Town Report by Friday January 7, 2022. Mr. Bueno and Ms. Melanson have offered to draft a report and send it out to committee members for review/ comments by December 2, 2021. This will allow a finalized draft to be ready for committee's next meeting on Thursday December 9, 2021.
3. Media Updates for Town: At last meeting, when speaking with Mr. Washko stated challenges that his committee had was engagement of the public. Mr. Bueno suggests we

draft monthly summaries of our meetings and put it in the Neighborhood news and/or access previously used facebook page , Fairhaven Forward and put the information there also. Members agreed that this would be a good idea.

4. Update on Town Organizational chart status. Ms. Melanson states no real update at this time. Trying to pin people down at this time of year is challenging , with holidays. Will follow up after Thanksgiving.
5. Draft of comparable communities : Communities that are similar to Fairhaven
  1. Acushnet
  2. Amesbury
  3. Athol
  4. Auburn
  5. Barnstable
  6. Bedford
  7. Bellingham
  8. Easthampton
  9. Franklin
  10. Mashpee
  11. Northridge
  12. Oxford
  13. Rockland
  14. Salisbury
  15. Wareham
  16. Watertown
  17. Webster
  18. Weymouth

Mr.Dawicki suggests we put the list we have made back into the different types of government these communities have so we can possibly reduce list size if wanted. The original document we looked at has them in these lists. Discussion from committee members regarding how to move forward with the list : divide it up , look for more specific demographics, looking at their charters and bi-laws, reduce the list size. Members in agreement that we should work as a group not necessarily divide it . Ms. Melanson suggests we discuss it at the next meeting, once we have it put back into the categories, then after the holidays meet and work on a plan.

6. Bennett & Shaw Report: Discussion by committee members. Ms.Cabral-Bernard would like to know how many of the recommendations were instituted by the town. Ms.Melanson feels the town organizational chart she is working on may answer some of those questions. Ms.Vargas feels that there have been multiple times a charter has been studied but not implemented by the town and feel we need to have better buy-in/support from our community. Discussion from committee members regarding the topic , including talking to people about what was and wasn't done in recommendations from the report, how the organizational chart will help us understand direction of our work and continued transparency of the committee.

## **Upcoming Events**

Next Meeting: Thursday December 9, 2021 at 6:30 PM

This will be the last meeting for this year , the following meeting will be January 13, 2022.

## **Other/New Business:**

Mr. Grindrod asked if the group needs to meet face to face per open meeting laws. Ms. Melanson state has given an extension for being able to meet via zoom to April 2022.

Mr. Grindrod asked about progress with contacting representatives from the DOR 2012 study. Mr. Bueno states he has emailed and called multiple times with no results. Mr. Grindrod will follow up with contact he may have.

## **Review Action Items**

1. Recategorizing the 18 communities into the respective types of government to be done by Mr. Bueno and sent to the group.
2. Draft information for town Annual Report and send to group for December 2, for revisions/comments to be done by Ms. Melanson and Mr. Bueno.

## **Question/Comments**

Mr. Darwicki proposes that the committee find a central place to deposit information that we have collected , for example Google Docs. Another recommendation is to use Microsoft 365 and to talk to Derek from Fairhaven TV as he does most of this already for the town. There were questions if this would violate the open meeting law. Mr. Dawicki will follow up on this with Ms. Fredette.

## **Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn made by Ms. Melanson , seconded by Mr. Grindrod. Approved 8-0 unanimously by roll call vote.

Meeting adjourned at 7:58 PM

Marybeth Vargas

Recording Secretary to Charter Committee