

TOWN OF BRIDGEWATER

Charter Review Committee

Ed Ivaldi, Chair
Cleonie Mainvielle
Darren Boston
James Karol-chik
Steve Persell
Thomas Golden
Scott Pitta



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Academy Building - 66 Central Square
Bridgewater, MA 02324

Charter Review Committee Meeting Minutes 7/1/2020

Call to Order at 7:02PM (Meeting is recorded)

Members Present: Ed Ivaldi, Cleonie Mainvielle, Darren Boston, Steve Persell, Thomas Golden, Scott Pitta

Members not in attendance: James Karol-chik

Guests Present: Michael Dutton – Town Manager

Roll Call

Approval of Meeting Minutes on 6/30

Thomas motioned, approved unanimously.

Public Comment: No public comment.

New Business

1. Discussion with Town Manager, Michael Dutton

Mr. Dutton discussed with the committee his suggestions on what could be improved with the charter since the last review. He recommended that the committee prioritize what needs to be fixed, piece it out for legislation to the Town Council, and that major issues should be what is sent to the voters. Minor issues and corrections do not necessarily have to go to the voters, and it will help keep the committee from getting bogged down. Mr. Dutton believes that the financial section should be prioritized for cleaning up based on his experience with the last review. The levels of authority and responsibility should be considered while going through the charter and entities like the school district may need specific attention from the committee.

Questions from the committee:

Cleonie Mainvielle asked if the Town Manager had any additional recommendations to prioritize during the committee's review and if there are any people that should be interviewed during the process. Mr. Dutton reiterated what he thinks should be considered from his discussion and recommended prior members of the charter review committees, other towns, and department heads for interviews by the committee

Darren Boston asked if there were any areas within the charter outside of the financial section that should be focused. Mr. Dutton thinks that the Town Clerk position should be reviewed on whether or not the position is elected or appointed.

Ed Ivaldi asked if the Charter Review Committee should be reaching out to other committees to gather any of the recent town surveys that have been completed. Mr. Dutton gave several examples of committee surveys that were recently done and encouraged the CRC to reach out to those committees to open up lines of communication and receive their surveys.

Old Business

1. Review 2014 CRC Recommendation Baseline Charter

Ed Ivaldi shared and reviewed the previous Town of Bridgewater's Town Charter from 2010 and the Charter Review recommendations from 2014. The intention is to use it as a base for the committee to start with prioritizing changes that should be made to the charter.

The committee discussed the creation of the sub-committee and finalized the members that would work on it. A recommendation that Thomas Golden was made chair of the sub-committee and a vote was taken.

Steve Persell motioned to make Thomas Golden the Chair of the sub-committee, Cleonie Mainvielle seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

Members of the committee offered and discussed a recommendation of working with the Town of Bridgewater's department heads for revisions and putting together a questionnaire and in-person discussions. The plan will be discussed and finalized at a later meeting before implementation.

Thomas Golden motioned to approve a plan to engage department heads in discussion on the town charter revisions through a questionnaire and/or in-person discussions. Cleonie Mainvielle seconded. The motion was approved unanimously

Next Meeting – July 15th, 2020 at 7PM

Adjourn – 9:05PM