

TOWN OF BRIDGEWATER

Charter Review Committee

Dennis C. Gallagher, Chair

Carlton Hunt
Stephanie Ryan
Gerald Muller
Erick Lynch



Michael J. Spagone, Secretary
mspagone@bridgewaterma.org

(508) 697-0919

Academy Building - 66 Central Square
Bridgewater, MA 02324

Bridgewater Charter Review Committee

Minutes for the Charter Review Meeting that Convened on Wednesday, September 3, 2014

Meeting called to order as informal session by Dennis C. Gallagher (Chairman of the Committee) in accordance with rules governing meetings and quorum not filled. Meeting starts at 7:07PM.

Members in Attendance: *Dennis C. Gallagher, Carlton Hunt and Erick Lynch*

Members Not in Attendance: *Gerald Muller and Stephanie Ryan*

Approval of Agenda: *The Committee accepts the agenda of the current meeting.*

Approval of Meeting Minutes: *The Committee defers approval of minutes until its next scheduled meeting.*

Public Comments: *There are no public comments for the current meeting.*

Announcements: *There are no announcements for the current meeting.*

New Business: *The Committee engages in an informal discussion of new business*

Committee Work Progress Update

The Chair and the Committee engage in an informal discussion of their current work progress. The Committee focuses conversation on their next meeting in which they hope to meet with the former Town Government Study Committee (TGSC) which engineered the existing Town Charter. The Chair and Committee develop multiple questions which they instruct the Secretary to convey to the TGSC for their input and commentary. Below are the questions which will be asked of, and conveyed to, the TGSC:

- 1. What did the TGSC intend in the Charter's language by the terms "full Town Council" and "vote of Town Council", is there a marked difference or limitation?*
- 2. Why did the TGSC choose to go with a nine-member Town Council set-up? Is there a significant impact in having more or less members?*
- 3. What does the TGSC see as the Finance Committee's role in the current Town Government as put forth in the Charter?*
- 4. What are some of the thoughts of the TGSC as they relate to the Town Manager/Mayoral forms of government?*
- 5. Do you see any issues or areas of improvement as it relates to the recall of public officials in Town Government?*
- 6. What do you see as being the best structure of Town Government (levels of government and divisions of power/checks and balances)?*
- 7. When the original Town Charter was developed what were some items that were taken out or adjusted in the development process? Are there any that should be added, removed or further adjusted?*
- 8. Can the TGSC provide input on the advantages/disadvantages of having all at-large Town Council seats versus specific Town Council Districts (i.e. currently by Precinct)?*
- 9. How did the TGSC arrive at the limit of 3 months for an acting Town Manager? Should this be a longer period of time/shorter period of time?*
- 10. What are the TGSC's views on having an Assistant Town Manager?*

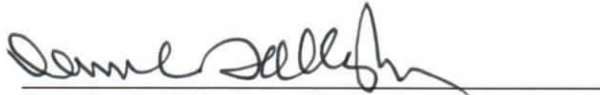
11. What are some of the views of the TGSC on the concepts of certain elected versus appointed officials (i.e. Town Manager, Town Clerk, and Finance Director)?

With informal discussion concluded, a request is made to adjourn the informal session: *By unanimous consensus of the Committee, the meeting is hereby adjourned. The next meeting will be September 17, 2014.*

Meeting is hereby adjourned by unanimous consensus of the members in attendance in accordance with rules governing meetings. Meeting adjourns at 8:08PM.

I hereby affix my hand to this document that the minutes of this meeting are true and accurate to the best of my ability, note-taking, and penmanship as so ordered by the Chair of the Committee this Third Day of September, Two Thousand and Fourteen.

A True Copy Attest,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dennis C. Gallagher", written over a horizontal line.

Dennis C. Gallagher, Chairman of the Committee

Michael J. Spagone, Secretary of the Committee