

Town of Bridgewater

Charter Review Committee

Meeting Minutes for: Wednesday May 21, 2014

Members Present: Jerry Muller, Carlton Hunt, Erick Lynch, Dennis Gallagher

Members Not Present: Dave Terpeny, Stephanie Ryan, Ralph Ferrigno

Guests: NONE

Meeting called to order at 7:32 PM by Chairman Dennis Gallagher

Minutes of our meeting were handed out to the members present. Hold on approval for our next meeting.

No guests in attendance for public input.

Committee members had a discussion on the current charter form of government. Discussion regarding scraping it, going back to selectman was talked about. A motion made by Carlton Hunt and seconded by Jerry Muller to move forward with the current charter form of government, but to recommend changes, if necessary, to any articles currently in the charter. Unanimous vote 4-0

Committee members discussed procedures to voting/suggesting specific language changes to the Charter. As we go through the Charter we will note specific recommended changes. Once a full review has been completed we will then go back and vote as a committee on all Changes that we will be recommending to the Town Council.

Committee members discussed Article I of the Charter – Incorporation and Authority.

Committee Members began the discussion of Article II – Legislative Branch. Discussion will continue at our next meeting.

A discussion took place regarding Town Districts/Precincts. Chairman to invite Town Clerk to a future meeting to go over State and Federal laws about Precinct boundaries and other election issues.

A Recall Provision to be built into the charter was discussed. We will review the Act of 1990 that establishes a recall provision for Bridgewater. Further discussion will take place at the next meeting.

Chairman updated the Committee regarding Clerical Support for the Council. A letter was sent to new Council President William Wood. Mr. Wood was scheduling a meeting with the Town Manager regarding this and what options might be available.

Open meeting Law was discussed. Member Carlton Hunt was to send a copy of the Open Meeting Law to all members for review.

VOTES TAKEN: M: C. Hunt S: J. Miller to remove "Through the adoption of this charter" from line 14. Unanimous Vote

M: J. Miller S: E. Lynch to move "definition" section to front of document. Add definitions - "Order" "Resolution" "Resolve" "Division of Power" we will add more definitions as we go along. Unanimous Vote

M: C. Hunt S: J Miller to remove the word "elected" from any subsequent references to the Town Clerk. Unanimous Vote

No Guests in attendance for Public Input at end of meeting

Meeting adjourned at 8:55 PM.


Dennis C. Gallagher
Chairman