

TOWN OF BRIDGEWATER

Charter Review Committee

Dennis C. Gallagher, Chair

Carlton Hunt
Stephanie Ryan
Gerald Muller
Erick Lynch



Michael J. Spagone, Secretary
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Academy Building - 66 Central Square
Bridgewater, MA 02324

Bridgewater Charter Review Committee

Minutes for the Charter Review Meeting that Convened on Wednesday, July 30, 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 7:05PM.

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

Members Not Present: *Stephanie Ryan, Erick Lynch and Gerald Muller*

Officials in Attendance: *Ronald Adams, Town Clerk*

Approval of Agenda: *The Committee accepts the agenda of the current meeting for informal discussion only.*

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.*

Informal Discussion: *The Committee engages in an informal discussion of old business, no formal actions are taken or implied.*

Informal Discussion Article III – Recall Provision and Town Clerk Discussion

The Committee engages in an informal discussion of past business relative to Article III of the Town Charter. Present for the informal session is Town Clerk Ronald Adams. Some of the items discussed with the Town Clerk include:

- Brief conversation of the Committee's current work on reviewing the Town Charter and potential directions it is exploring with respect to revising existing language.*
- The Committee indicates their exploration of districts vs. precincts comparisons relative to voter distribution and minimum requirement ratios needed for recalls to take place, "is 150 voters typical on a petition, or should it be more?"*
- Brief detail of the Committee's initial thoughts on at-large Town Council Districts vs. delegation of at-large Councilors*
- Questions relative to minimum petitioners on a recall petition and then to validate a recall election "how many petitioners are actually needed, how many overall votes are needed to declare a successful recall election?"*
- Relative to the 2012-2013 recall elections "should the elections be separate, should they be on the same ballot as a state or federal race, or should they be a part of the annual town election?"*

The Committee also seeks the initial input of the Town Clerk on his position and how the office is operated in other towns throughout the Commonwealth. Mr. Adams noted that a majority of the town clerks in Massachusetts are elected officials and that only a few are appointed. According to Mr. Adams, the role of the Town Clerk is to be an impartial elected official who can also act as a go-between or check on the balance of authority in a community. Additionally, it is noted that a Town Clerk also seeks out the legality of certain bylaws and actions by public officials to maintain the public trust.

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 August 20, 2014.*

Meeting is hereby adjourned by unanimous consensus of the members in attendance in accordance with rules governing meetings. Meeting adjourns at 8:05PM.

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 Thirtieth Day of July 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