

CHARTER REVIEW COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
THURSDAY MARCH 21, 2024, at 5:00 pm EDT

Meeting conducted via Virtual-WebEx - recorded and available for review at the following link:
<http://trurotv.truro-ma.gov/CablecastPublicSite/show/7113?channel=1>

A quorum of committee members was present:

Nancy Medoff - Chair, Bob Panessiti - Vice Chair, Michael Cohen, Fred Fehlau, Brian Boyle and Dave Bannard. Chris Lucy did not attend.

Chair Medoff called the meeting to order at 5:00 pm, invited the public to call in, and provided the necessary information.

Note: Select Board Liaison to the Charter Review Committee, Sue Areson joined the meeting.

Public Hearing for 2024 – 2025

- Truro resident, Clint Kershaw, raised two requests:
- His first request pertains to Chapter 3, election and recall. How does one get recalled? The elected component is defined, however, the section for recall is not. The goal would be to have the information all in one place.
- Chair Medoff asked Mr. Kershaw, if the information link was not broken, would it have been okay?
- His second request is for the Select Board to provide sufficient guidance for a Citizen's Petition before a town meeting.

Public Comment Period

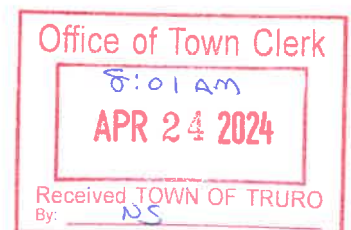
- Chair Medoff opened the meeting for public comment. No public comment took place.

Agenda Item – Approval of prior meeting minutes

- A motion was made, and the February 22, 2024, meeting minutes were approved. Dave Bannard abstained.

Agenda Item – Discussion Charter Sections 4-5-2 and 6-2-12 recommendations.

- These two recommendations were discussed at length, dating back to August 2023.
- These two sections were discussed in August 2023, October 2023, in November 2023 the CRC crafted language to change these two sections, and voted unanimously to recommend it to the Select Board. It was then added back to the agenda in January 2024, because Town Manager and Town Council wanted some further clarification. As a result, the CRC recommended modified language *that included* the advice of Town Council. A CRC vote was taken, and it passed 4 to 1.
- Chair Medoff put it back on the agenda to gauge any public or CRC concerns.
- Michael Cohen expressed that the work by the CRC, coupled with including Town Manager Darrin Tangeman, and Town Council Lauren Goldberg, that our revised discussion yielded results that the CRC should be proud of.



Agenda Item – Discussion and review on Public Hearing comments and feedbacks on priorities

- Chair Medoff asked the CRC if the recall language is something that we would want to take on?
- Brian Boyle, being familiar with this exact topic, gave a very thorough historical background. The language was written very clearly, dating back to approximately 1985. He suggested including a copy of the 1985 link document on the Charter Review Committee webpage. The Charter defines that there can be a recall process of an elected official. In 1985, Truro went to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts legislature to have a special rule act similar to a home rule passed.
- Fred Fehlau suggested any reference links within the charter should be included in the new software rollout.
- Sue Areson confirmed that the funds for the website updates are on the upcoming town warrant. Putting the link on the website is also more of a Town Clerk's responsibility. The Town Employee Handbook contains language that discusses the recall process, but it is not too specific.
- Make the recall information readily available is the goal. This will be added to the next CRC meeting.
- This thirty-minute discussion came to an agreement, it is not a charter change.
- Regarding a Citizen's Petition, previously discussed before the CRC, we feel it was not a charter change. More specificity of Select Board guidance and town resources as needed. Select Board policy is the best way to do it. Mr. Kershaw and others are still seeking guidance.
- Sue Areson expressed that the Select Board should create an outline policy for when a citizen wants to submit a citizen's petition. Outside of that, because of the Charter, that is far as the Select Board can go. The Select Board cannot direct staff. At that point, it becomes a staff issue. That includes where the funds will come from.
- Chair Medoff would like to see a checklist as a petition is being completed.
- At the next Select Board meeting, Sue Areson will bring the CRC recommendation that a specific policy be created to assist citizens, and will report back to the CRC.
- The Select Board will submit all Articles to Town Counsel for review. The Select Board does not share legal counsel opinions that are provided by town counsel. Individual petitioners have the right to consult their own counsel.
- How are things paid for? Funds raised and appropriated. It is multilayered?
- Dave Bannard believes this defers back to the Select Board for guidance, and is a Charter issue. Similar to Chair Medoff, create an informational sheet.

Agenda Item – Agreement on next meeting date

- Chair Medoff recommended Thursday, April 18, 2024, at 5:00pm, 2024.

Michael Cohen made a motion to adjourn the public meeting. Brian Boyle seconded, and the CRC members approved on a roll call. Accordingly, the public meeting adjourned at 5:46 pm EDT.

Respectfully submitted,
Michael Cohen

