

Charter Review Committee Minutes

March 1, 2021; 4:00 p.m.

Virtual-WebEx - recorded and available for viewing at the following link: <http://trurotv.truro-ma.gov/CablecastPublicSite/show/4819?channel=1>

A quorum of committee members was present: Robert Panessiti, Brian Boyle, Nancy Medoff, Bill Golden, Chris Lucy, and Cheryl Best. (Committee member Gary Palmer was absent) A few members of the public were also present.

Meeting was started at 4:00 PM and Chair Panessiti invited the public to call in and gave the necessary information to do so.

Public Comment:

- No public comment.

1. Agenda Item – Approval of Minutes

- Ms. Medoff moved to approve the minutes from the February 15, 2021 meeting. Mr. Golden seconded and minutes were approved.

2. Agenda Item – Update on Survey Monkey and Possible Alternatives

- Mr. Panessiti told the committee that the town's license for Survey Monkey had lapsed and that we had three alternatives to use. Mr. Boyle indicated that he thought Google Forms would be an adequate platform. Ms. Medoff stated that it will take time to reformat the survey and Mr. Panessiti assured the committee that there was no timeline.
 - Action Item: Mr. Boyle will look at Google Forms and figure out its viability for current survey.
- Mr. Lucy shared that the Select Board had set May 1 as the date for the Town Meeting with a backup rain date; and that there were already about 40 articles on the warrant.

3. Agenda Item – Discussion of Possible Recommended Charter Changes for Town Meeting

- **Section 6.2.10**: There was a discussion regarding boards appointing their own members to fill vacant seats after 45 days, as outlined in the section. CRC members felt they should recommend to SB that 45 days be extended to 60 days, and adding language that would confirm the appointment would be confirmed pending an interview by the Select Board at a public meeting, no later than 60 days after appointment. Ms. Best suggested the language also include the process by which the committee would go about making such an appointment.
 - Action Item: Ms. Medoff will work on exact language and bring it to next CRC meeting for the committee to review.
- **Section 2.3.3**: There was discussion and agreement on recommending a change from the required 10 signatures to 30 signatures for putting petitioned articles on the warrant.
- **Section 6.4.7**: Regarding the removal of members after 4 consecutive absences – Mr. Panessiti recommended we change wording to read 4 unexcused absences.
 - Action Item: Mr. Panessiti will write up exact language and bring to next meeting for CRC committee review.
- **Section 6** – new language regarding removal of members from boards: Mr. Panessiti suggested that removal of board members be done in reference to section 2 of Code of Conduct and referring to language in policy memorandum 54. Ms. Best apologized for not having thoroughly read the Code of Conduct before the meeting, but wanted to be sure that member removal could not be construed to be in response to

majority political opinions on issues that an individual member may vociferously oppose. Ms. Medoff suggested we include stronger reference to specifics in policy 54.

- Action Item: Mr. Panessiti will write up a new charter section on this issue, with actual language from policy 54 (section 2) and bring it to next meeting for committee review, after which it would go to legal council.
- **Section 4.1.2** -Mr. Lucy suggested a wording change from ..."shall be filled by special election in accordance with provisions of General Law" by changing shall to may, depending on the timing of the absence.
 - Action Item: Mr. Panessiti will check with council to see if Mass General Law would permit such a change.
- **Section 3** - Mr. Lucy suggested that the number of signatures needed for getting onto a ballot for elected office in town should increase from 20 to 30. Mr. Panessiti stated he would look into where the number 20 came from, [as it is not delineated in the Charter]. Ms. Best cautioned that we do not want to make it harder to run for office in the town given the concern that many elections are already uncontested. This was tabled for further discussion.

Mr. Panessiti made it clear that the warrant was already closed so there would be no new items on it this year. He then summarized the follow-up action items from the meeting, and asked committee members to think about what we will say with respect to articles asking for charter changes. This will be on the agenda of the next meeting.

Mr. Lucy thought it was important to make it clear that the CRC did not initiate any of the warrant articles regarding changes to the charter. Mr. Panessiti then clarified the process that the town goes through in putting articles on the warrant.

Meeting was adjourned at 5:20PM

Next Meeting: Wednesday, March 24, 2021 at 4:00PM

Respectfully submitted,



Cheryl Best
March 24, 2021

