

**Charter Review Committee
Minutes
Meeting of February 26, 2020; 4:00 p.m.
Lower Level Conference Room, Truro Town Hall**

A quorum of committee members was present: Jay Coburn, Gary Palmer, Bob Panessiti, Chris Lucy, Gary Palmer and William Golden.

Absent: Brian Boyle, Cheryl Best

Several members of the public were present for public comment.

Approval of the Minutes was deferred until the next meeting due to the resignation of the Secretary Meg Royka.

Chair Bob Panessiti opened the meeting by welcoming new members Chris Lucy, Bill Golden and Cheryl Parker Best. He informed the Committee of the resignation of member Meg Royka and ask for nominations for Secretary of the Committee. No nominations were offered and the Chair offered to take minutes for this meeting.

Discussion was had around staggering terms.

Chair Panessiti brought to the Committee's attention the Select Board's amendment to the Committee charge adding the requirement for an annual public hearing.

Chair Panessiti updated new members on the Committee's decision to review the election vs. appointment of the Planning Board. He explained this was part of the objectives of the Committee a number of years ago and was deemed a lesser priority. The Committee having worked through a number of initiatives decided to move forward with this at the meeting of August 2019. It was decided that a series of questions would be developed and posed to the both the Select Board and Planning Board to begin the process. Chair Panessiti reached out to the Planning Board leadership and the response received from Vice Chair Karen Tosh was a recommendation that a joint meeting be held to discuss the matter further. It was noted that Vice Chair Tosh shared the email request for information with members of the community, notably Joan Holt who emailed Chair Panessiti. It was further noted that there was much discussion at the Planning Board meeting of November 6th that mischaracterized and maligned the Committee and it's Chair. Chair Panessiti suggested the Committee members view the meeting on Truro TV.

Member Coburn spoke about proper governance and his concerns that given the relatively small year-round population that many people believe they can't meet the demands of the board resulting in few if any people running for open seats and resulting in non-competitive elections.

Member Golden stated that there should be open elections of boards and that was part of the Democratic process.

Chair Panessiti reminded the Committee members that a pure democracy doesn't really exist in modern society and it is governed by a representative democracy.

Member Palmer suggested that we look at the effectiveness of other boards that are elected vs. appointed such as the Housing Authority and the Cemetery Commission. Member Coburn reminded the Committee that the appointment of the Housing Authority was a function of Massachusetts General Law along with the Library and School Committees. It was decided that the Committee should review the Cemetery Commission appointment process and it's effectiveness along with the Planning Board. A motion was made by Coburn, seconded by Palmer, motion carried 6-0-0. Chair Panessiti will distribute established criteria for municipalities to review whether or not boards should be appointed or elected. This material was presented at the November 6th meeting. Following the meeting Chair Panessiti agreed to email the questions previously posed to the Planning Board to Committee members for comment and approach the Planning Board again along with the Cemetery Commission.

Mr. Coburn moved to adjourn; Mr. Palmer seconded. Vote was unanimous.

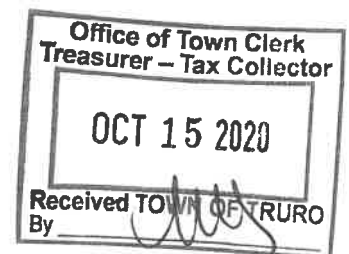
Next meeting: TBD

Adjourned: 5:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Panessiti 11/14/2020

Robert Panessiti, Chair



-add term l.m.t.s?

**FRAMEWORK FOR CONSIDERING ELECTED AND APPOINTED OFFICES FROM
THE EDWARD J COLLINS JR. CENTER FOR PUBLIC MANAGEMENT AT UMASS
BOSTON**

**CRITERIA SUPPORTING A POSITION
OR BOARD BEING ELECTED**

It has significant policy-making
responsibility

POLICY

It has few ministerial responsibilities
and tasks whose performance is
guided almost entirely by statute

**NATURE OF
RESPONSIBILITIES**

Someone with little training or
expertise in its area of work could
quickly and easily become effective
in the work

**REQUIRED TRAINING
OR EXPERTISE**

Its role and tasks are easily and
widely understood by the public

**PUBLIC UNDERSTANDING
OF WORK**

The nature of the position or board's
role makes it relatively simple for the
public to evaluate the performance of
its non-policy-making duties
(for example efficient use of
Resources, etc.)

**PUBLIC'S ABILITY
TO EVALUATE
NON-POLICY
PERFORMANCE**

The position or board is helpful
as a check or balance against another
center of power in the community

**CHECKS AND
BALANCES**

It is not critical to the effective and
efficient functioning of the government
for this position or board to cooperate
regularly with other officials

**COLLABORATION
WITH OTHER
OFFICIALS**

**CRITERIA SUPPORTING A POSITION
OR BOARD BEING APPOINTED**

It has minimal policy-making
responsibility

It has many ministerial responsibilities
and tasks whose performance is guided
almost entirely by statute

Someone with training or expertise
in its area of work would have
significant difficulty in performing the
work effectively, potentially creating
significant risks for the community

Its role and tasks are
complicated and not easily and widely
understood by the public

The nature of the position or board's
role makes it relatively difficult for the
public to evaluate the performance of
its non-policy making duties

The position or board is not needed
as a check or balance against another
center of power in the community

It is critical to the effective and
efficient functioning of the
government for this position or board
to cooperate regularly with other
officials

In the particular community in question, election for the position historically produces a very competitive race between highly qualified candidates

**CONTESTED
ELECTIONS**

In the particular community in question, election for the position historically produces little or no competition and few or no highly qualified candidates