

APR 29 2022

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TOWN CLERK NS**Charter Review Committee Minutes**
April 21, 2022 at 4:15PM

Virtual-WebEx - recorded and available for viewing at the following link: <http://trurotv.truro-ma.gov/CablecastPublicSite/show/5351?channel=1>

A quorum of committee members was present: Brian Boyle, Nancy Medoff, Cheryl Best, Chris Lucy, Bill Golden, and Robert Panessiti.

Also present were 2 Select Board members, the Town Manager, and numerous members of the public.

The meeting was started at 4:15 PM. Chair Boyle invited the public to call in and gave the necessary information to do so. He then welcomed the public and described the purpose of the meeting and shared that the meeting would start with comments or questions from the public, followed by a committee working session.

Public Comment:

- Public comments began 4 minutes into the meeting and ended 42 minutes into the meeting.
- Approximately 10 people spoke. There were 7 comments in support of elections, citing reasons such as democratic values, committee independence, a need for diversity of opinions on committees, avoiding a concentration of power on a three-person Select Board majority, and that elected boards serve the people.
- Additionally, 4 questions were asked related to why only the Planning Board was on the warrant; whether the Select Board can remove people from boards once appointed; whether appointed committees serve the people or the Select Board, and if appointment would take place through attrition or all at once if the Planning Board changed.
- A member of the Cemetery Commission spoke in support of committee elections and stated that she had not seen the CRC study survey. Chair Boyle told her she may have started after it was sent out and that the decision of whether to send it out to her now would be made in committee, but he saw no reason why it would not be.

Chair Boyle then closed the public comment section of the meeting and moved to the CRC working meeting.

Agenda Item – Elected v. Appointed Boards and Committees Working Session

- There was a review of the history of the Planning Board study, and the study of other boards that came to the CRC through warrant articles. The Chair clarified that the election v. appointment study is not the only work the committee is doing. He then shared that there is not a lot of real world study on this topic and discussed a couple other towns that have tried to make such changes (Ipswich from appointment to election and Grafton from election to appointment) but neither town had the support to make those changes.
- Chair Boyle shared the CRC study methodology and findings in the working document from the meeting packet, which was focused solely on information related to the Planning Board.
- Mr. Lucy felt he needed more time to review the working document. Mr. Panessiti questioned some of the data and scoring and Chair Boyle explained it further. He clarified that only towns with Town Meeting forms of government were included in the counts of elected v. appointed planning boards.

- Select Board Chair Weinstein suggested the committee use three metrics in the study:
 - Goals and Objectives of the Select Board
 - Statutory establishment of Planning Boards (chapter 42:81A) of Mass General Law [which is outlined in the working document]
 - What the Planning Board has done for the community in the past 5 years
- Discussion continued with issues such as: how to move forward; survey answers being wrong; differing opinions on Collins criteria; the need to respect those who answered surveys based on their interpretation of the criteria; how to properly score the surveys; the need for all committee members to understand how the surveys are scored; and what else we could add to improve the working document.
- A suggestion was made by a member of the public that voters would benefit from a list of pros and cons for election and appointment for the boards/committees.
- Ms. Best suggested that such a list of pros and cons would be a good addition to the working document and report. She added that it could be efficiently developed by the members of the CRC – (3 who, on March 30, voted YES to changing the Planning Board to appointed and 4 who voted NO to changing the Planning Board to appointed) – to reflect their thinking on that vote.
- Members of the committee agreed that a pros and cons list would be a good process to go through.
- Ms. Medoff clarified that her positive vote on the warrant article [at the March 30th CRC meeting] was intended as a vote to get the article onto the warrant and did not reflect her opinion on the Planning Board.
- **ACTION ITEM:** Members of the Charter Review Committee will develop a pros and cons list to be added to the report
- A point of order regarding approving minutes was made and it was decided that approval of the minutes would be placed onto the agenda for the public hearing on April 27, 2022.

Chair Boyle reminded everyone about the annual Charter Review Committee public hearing, which will take place on April 27, 2022 at 5:00pm. He shared that there will be another public hearing in late June or early July to get public input for the coming year. He asked for a motion to adjourn.

Mr. Panessiti made a motion to adjourn. All were in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 6:30PM

Next Meeting - April 27, 2022 at 5:00pm – Annual Public Hearing

Respectfully Submitted



Cheryl Best

April 28, 2022

