

**CHARTER REVIEW COMMITTEE - MEETING AND PUBLIC HEARING MINUTES
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2022**

Meeting conducted via Virtual -WebEx – recorded and available for reviewing at the following link:
<http://trurotv.truro-ma.gov/CablecastPublicSite/show/5491?channel=1>

A quorum of committee members present:

Nancy Medoff - Chair, Robert Panessiti – Vice Chair, Michael Cohen, Chris Lucy and Raphael Richter. Meg Royka was not present.

Chair Medoff called the meeting to order at 4:15 PM and invited the public to call in and provided the necessary information to do so.

Public Comment Period – took place at the beginning of the meeting. No activity took place.

Agenda Item – Approval of minutes from the Charter Review Committee meeting from Thursday, August 25, 2022

Chair Medoff asked if there were any amendments to the minutes. Having none, a roll-call vote was taken to approve the minutes as written.

Agenda Item – Priorities for Charter Review Committee for the remainder of 2022

- Chair Medoff opened the discussion and requested input from each Committee member around priorities for the Committee for 2022.
- Bob Panessiti recommended that the CRC wrap up open citizen petition articles, charter change recommendations ZBA & Cemetery Commission. Recommendation of board tenure of 3-years versus 5-years. Take a closer look at the CRC Charge in concert with the Select Board and possible charter changes.
- Chair Medoff, per discussion with the CRC Select Board liaison, reminded the committee as to the committee charge. Civic education is not in the CRC Charge however is inherently part of what we do and as such suggested that the committee support the town marketing coordinator for this task.
- Chair Medoff added as requested by Select Board liaison that the Committee provide suggestions to modernize the Charter as appropriate. Example, gender neutral language, etc. Review other town Charters for best practices.
- To gain knowledge at what other Cape towns are doing as well as research Planning Board term limits, Chair Medoff reviewed various town charters.
- Bob Panessiti – the CRC is a standing committee made possible by the Select Board. Should CRC go back to adhoc instead of a standing committee? He raised the possibility of educating the residents via the communication director and incorporating it an annual meeting.
- Chris Lucy has a concern going via adhoc. However, if we do, he would like to see something in the Charter that is based on meeting timelines.
- Chair Medoff tabled the CRC ad hoc discussion as it was not listed in the agenda. This topic will be added to next meeting agenda.

TOWN OF TRURO
8:12 AM
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Agenda Item – Action and continued discussion on citizen's petition for charter change section 6-4-2 appointed multimember committees and boards appointed or elected

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- Chair Medoff reopened the discussion around Charter Change Petition section 6-4-2 – Appointed Multi Member bodies. She re-shared the legal opinion from KP Law advising the CRC is within its purview to make a recommendation on this matter.
- Current ZBA Chair was invited by Chair Medoff to join the meeting and was unable to join.
- Chris Lucy – 23(b)(3) filed with the Select Board, regarding his disclosure making reasonable decisions on the Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA).
- Chris Lucy and Raphael Richter believe the will of the community is strongly in favor for a variety of appointed boards.
- Bob Panessiti feels that based on past ZBA performance, that the ZBA remain appointed versus elected.
- Chair Medoff shared specific comments from her conversation with current ZBA Chair which were in favor of the Board being appointed.
- Bob Panessiti discussed that if a citizen petition emerges in the warrant in the spring of 2023, that the CRC will have to render an opinion.
- Chris Lucy made a motion to keep the ZBA appointed versus elected. It was second for discussion by Raphael Richter.
- Brian Boyle shared his discomfort going to a recommendation because he has not heard directly from the ZBA Chair and does not know what other towns are doing in this area.
- Chair Medoff shared the research conducted and review of Cape Cod town charters. Chair Medoff also referenced the survey conducted, feedback from the Chair and feedback from the Vice Chair who was present at the meeting along with information across other Cape towns and discussion among the CRC.
- The motion was approved by Chair Medoff, Michael Cohen, Chris Lucy, Raphael Richter and Bob Panessiti. Brian Boyle abstained.

Agenda Item – Reopen discussion on Planning Board, 3 years versus 5-year term

- Chair Medoff asked Michael Cohen to continue the discussion around length of term for Planning Board.
- Cohen believes a three- term versus a five-year term works in concert with the other town departments. He also raised the concern around costs for litigation.
- Bob Panessiti agreed with Michael Cohen regarding a 3- year versus a 5-year term. Bob feels a 5-year commitment is a lot. Historically, he has seen a disruption in the continuity of the PB. It should be homogenous across the board. Bob also cited how in the past, that some PB members did not adhere to town council advice, and it cost the town thousands.
- Chair Medoff shared the charter data for Cape Cod towns: All have three-year terms with the exception of Wellfleet with 5-years, and Brewster with 4-years.
- Chris Lucy has a concern of a stagnant board with a five-year term. He feels that more people would be interested in participating in a three-year versus a five-year term.
- Bob Panisetti and Raphael Richter recommended having a three-year versus five-year term on the agenda for our next meeting and be prepared to vote on the CRC recommendation.
- Bob Panisetti recommended that the CRC does not limit looking at just the PB term, but look at any term different than three years. Presently the THA is also a five-year term.
- Chair Medoff referred to the legal opinion from KP Law that the CRC is within its purview to make a recommendation on this matter.
- Chair Medoff had invited the Chair of the Planning Board to attend this meeting to be a part of the discussion, but she was unable to attend this CRC meeting. Chair Medoff will invite the PB Chair and THA Chair to the next meeting for discussion on term for their respective Boards.

- Brian Boyle raised the question of what is the learning curve for various committees.

Agenda Item – Continued discussion on future consideration Charter Section 4-2-11

- Chris Lucy suggested more robust discussion around his suggestions for goals and objectives for some of the different boards and committees.
- Bob Panissetti recommended possibly adding language to the Charter under Boards & Committees. For example: At the first meeting for each of the boards and committees following the annual town meeting, should include a public hearing for the goals and objectives for that board or committee for that coming year.
- Brian Boyle suggested it may not be a Charter change, but a best practice change. The Select Board could put it in the Charge.
- The Select Board Chair provided some consideration to the CRC regarding the goals and objectives of the Select Board. The Select Board has a criteria process they follow. They do an internal vote prior to a public hearing process.
- Select Board Chair said it may be best that the SB provides its goals and objectives first to eliminate any committee or board moving in an opposite direction that is an advisory board to the SB.
- Chair Medoff will add this to next month's meeting agenda.

Agenda Item – Next Meeting Dates

- Thursday, October 20, 2022, at 4:15pm approved unanimously
- Thursday, November 17, 2022, at 4:15pm approved unanimously
- Thursday, December 15, 2022, at 4:15pm approved unanimously

Bob Panessiti made a motion to adjourn the public meeting. Brian Boyle seconded and all approved on a roll call. The public hearing adjourned at 6:05 PM EDT.

Respectfully submitted,
Michael Cohen

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