

CHARTER REVIEW COMMITTEE - MEETING MINUTES THURSDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2022

Meeting conducted via Virtual -WebEx – recorded and available for reviewing at the following link:
<http://truotv.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, September 22, 2022

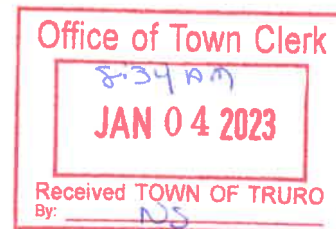
Chair Medoff asked if there were any amendments to the minutes. Having none, a roll-call vote was taken to approve the minutes as written.

Agenda Item – Continued discussion on Planning Board & Truro Housing Authority, three-year versus a five-year term

- Chair Medoff welcomed Kevin Grunwald, Chair of Truro Housing Authority and Anne Greenbaum, Chair of Planning Board and invited each to the discussion.
- Kevin Grunwald provided his opinion of a three-year versus a five-year term. Chair Grunwald's own opinion, and not of his board, is a three-year term is a reasonable term. He also feels more active recruitment is needed for additional candidates.
- Anne Greenbaum provided her opinion and that of her board, regarding a three-year versus a five-year term.
- Key points from Chair Greenbaum: 1. Consensus is that a three-year term is not sufficient because of the learning curve. 2. Institutional memory can be lost if there is only a three-year term. 3. Five-years may discourage some candidates but is outweighed by the steep learning curve. 4. A better understanding of proactive planning and dealing with individual applications that comes before the Planning Board. 5. Chair Greenbaum expressed the possibility of changing to a four-year term
- Discussion among the committee and guests continued.

Agenda Item – Continued discussion on charter change section 6-4-2 appointed multi-member bodies – Cemetery Commission & Truro Housing Authority

- Chair Grunwald shared his opinion regarding elected versus appointed for the Truro Housing Authority. Currently the framework is one appointed (by the Governor's Office) and four elected. Chair Grunwald's opinion, is that currently, the committee is well-functioning, however, it should be an appointed committee by the Select Board. His reason, it provides the opportunity to interview the candidates. Chair Grunwald will put the question on his January 2023 meeting agenda.



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

Planning Board goals and objectives

- A robust fifty-six-minute conversation took place amongst the CRC and with Chair Greenbaum participating in some capacity regarding the future consideration of Charter Section 4-2-11.
- The idea of making sure accountability, prioritizing and timelines/scheduling are at the forefront. Realizing that not every Board or Committee will get a perfect score meeting a timeline, but at least there is an ability to audit (the ability to discuss) the progress of a particular board or committee's goals and objectives. Also, this will educate the public on what content will be included in the warrant so that the public is not caught off guard.
- Some other key points of the discussion: 1. Modernize the Charter. For example: using the town's website versus a newspaper ad. 2. Possibly add 6-3-2 in the Charter that outlines the responsibilities of elected bodies. 3. The CRC was briefed by Chair Greenbaum that the Planning Board currently completes a less formal goal and objectives meeting at the beginning of the year.
- Brian Boyle proposed all elected boards should do this annually across the board. Appointed boards are subject to following their Charge.
- At the end of this agenda discussion, Chair Greenbaum supported the idea of the goals and objectives on the Town of Truro's website to take place early in the calendar cycle for different committees. To see what each committee is working on is great, with the caveat that the website should be updated regularly.

Agenda Item – Continued discussion on ad hoc versus standing Charter Review Committee

- There was an informative twenty-one-minute discussion amongst the CRC as to the pros and cons of ad hoc versus standing.
- Key points: 1. What in the immediacy is going to make the Town of Truro better? 2. Convene the CRC every three-years, five-years or when necessary? 3. How many issues should be bundled up? What is the number that should be used? 4. A possibility that the Select Board Advisory Committee or the Select Board could do it themselves.
- Discussion continued to next meeting

Agenda Item – Continued discussion on request and plan to modernize Charter language

- Discussion around need for and pros/cons of modernizing our Town Charter along with suggestions to refer to MMA for existing tools or process to support this process.
- Discussion continued to next meeting.

Agenda Item – Next Meeting Dates

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

Brian Boyle made a motion to adjourn the public meeting. Bob Panesitti seconded, and all approved on a roll call. The public hearing adjourned at 6:12 PM EDT.

Respectfully submitted,
Michael Cohen

