

Charter Review Committee Minutes

November 30, 2020; 4:00 p.m.

Virtual-WebEx - recorded and available for viewing at the following link: <http://trurotv.truro-ma.gov/CablecastPublicSite/show/4667?channel=1>

A quorum of committee members was present: Bob Panessiti, Brian Boyle, Chris Lucy, Nancy Medoff, and Cheryl Best. (Committee members William Golden and Gary Palmer were absent)

Meeting was started at 4:03PM and Chair Panessiti invited the public to call in and gave the necessary information to do so.

Agenda Item – Approval of Minutes

There was a discussion on the minutes and an amendment made to clarify the meaning of a statement made by Mr. Panessiti. The minutes were approved with the amendment.

Agenda Item – Establish timeline and next steps for review of elected vs. appointed Cemetery Commission and Planning Board, including criteria for assessment

Mr. Panessiti reviewed the history of the charter changes and the decision to evaluate the Planning Board and Cemetery Commission. He clarified that we had not hired the Collins Center but that he found their criteria on the Internet.

Mr. Panessiti cited some information from a memo compiled by the Town Planner in October regarding elected or appointed planning boards on Cape Cod. Ms. Best cited a similar study done in Ipswich of Northern Coastal towns, which had an appointed Planning Board and were considering making it elected.

The committee then discussed the spreadsheet structure and criteria. There was a discussion of other criteria that might be added. There was then a discussion of the weighting of the criteria. Ms. Medoff suggested that the document wording should be cleared up and asked if the citizens petition concerns were reflected in the document. It was clarified that petitions require no explanation of their request.

Mr. Panessiti clarified that the CRC was not charged by the Select Board to do this work. He then reviewed what happened in the committee in the past and read the questions that were asked of the Planning Board. There was additional discussion on how to gather information and what information to gather. Ms. Best cautioned that we not create a framework that is unruly because it has to be used with all the committees.

Decisions were summarized:

Weighting system of 1 to 5 in spreadsheet

Cleaning up of wording

Second tab for questions, to be considered and finalized at next meeting

Meeting date of December 21 was established and a timeline was discussed leading to a recommendation and public hearing in mid March. Anne Greenbaum, who was present in the public, indicated that she would agree to a joint meeting of the Planning Board and CRC sometime in January.

Agenda Item – Discussion of more broad review of all elected and appointed boards

Ms. Best made a motion to add the Zoning Board of Appeals to the evaluative process. Mr. Boyle seconded the motion. Discussion followed and a vote was called (Panessiti against, Best and Boyle for, Medoff and Lucy abstained). The motion carried.

Agenda item – Sections of the Charter for consideration of future review

Mr. Panessiti asked the committee to look at section 6 of the charter, which is the appointment of committees and members on committees, to see if it was clear or needed any changes. This will be a discussion point on December 21.

Ms. Best suggested we also look at section 2-3 to consider increasing the number of people needed for a citizen petition.

Meeting adjourned

Next Meeting: December 21 at 4:00PM – two hours reserved

Respectfully submitted,



Cheryl Best

