

**Charter Review Committee
Minutes
Meeting of October 14, 2020; 4:00 p.m.
Virtual-WebEx**

A quorum of committee members was present: Bob Panessiti, Brian Boyle, Chris Lucy, Cheryl Best, Select Board liaison Kristen Reed. There were members of the community present.

Resignation-Jay Coburn

Committee member Gary Palmer was absent.

There was no public comment.

Draft minutes of the November 1, 2019 and February 26, 2020 meetings were accepted unanimously.

The Chair made committee members aware of an open meeting law compliant filed against the committee. The compliant alleged the Committee did not post or provide it's minutes in accordance with the law. The Chair cited the law which states committees are required to post their minutes in a timely manner which is defined as the later of 30 days or the third consecutive meeting. In addition draft minutes if they are available must be made available within 10 day of a request. The committee was well within these parameters and Town Counsel will be drafting a response to the complainant, which will include the minutes approved today.

Officers were elected unanimously for the fiscal year 2021:

Robert Panessiti, Chair
Brian Boyle, Vice Chair
Cheryl Best, Clerk

Chair Panessiti reviewed what the Committee has accomplished over the past few years. He explained how action items were prioritized and the process for approval-recommendation to the Board of Selectmen for placement on the Warrant-vote at Town Meeting-vote as a ballot item in the general election. The last item the Committee had voted to take action on was to consider the election or appointment of town boards. At the previous meeting it was decided to consider the Cemetery Board in addition to the Planning Board. The Chair stated that since there was a citizen petitioned article proposed for Town Meeting concerning the Planning Board that we need to render an opinion. A framework of criteria for discussion as established by the Edward J Collins Jr Center for Public Management at UMass Boston was presented for discussion. The Chair asked for comments on the process of evaluation. Member Best stated why she felt the Planning Board should be elected. The Chair stated he was uncomfortable making a determination without considering facts and data and engaging in a thoughtful discussion. Member Best replied she misunderstood and thought the Chair was looking for an opinion based on the data presented. The Chair stated that there was no data presented just a framework for discussion. Member Boyle commented he thought the material presented was a good place to start a review process. Member Best suggested that the Committee look at all boards within the Charter and expand the scope of the review. Member Boyle suggested reaching out to town counsel to determine if there are any issues that would prevent the Charter from dictating an elected vs. appointed body. The Chair volunteered to reach out to counsel through the interim Town Manager. Member Golden stated that as we go through this process we should consider the unique characteristics of Truro. Eric Parker, a member of the community, rendered his opinion that whether or not an election is contested should not be a consideration. It was decided that the

committee members should come to the next meeting prepared to discuss and decide on the final framework and establish a process going forward.

The Chair asked all members to review the Charter prior to the next meeting and come forward with any items that we might consider this year. He reminded the Committee that we are required to hold an annual public hearing to inform the public of activities of the Committee.

It was determined that the next meeting would be held on November 4th at 4pm if possible with a back up date of November 5th pm.

Action Items: Chair Panessiti to contact the Interim Town Manager in order to seek an opinion from town counsel re elected vs. appointed boards as prescribed by the Charter.

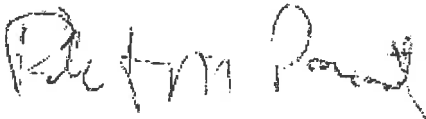
Members to review the Charter and recommend areas of consideration

Members to be prepared to agree on process of evaluation for appointed vs. elected boards

Next meeting: November 2020 (specific date TBD)

Adjourned: 5:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Robert Panessiti, Chair

