

TOWN OF TRURO

P.O. Box 2030, Truro, MA 02666
Tel: (508) 349-7004 Fax: (508) 349-5505

Date: July 10, 2013, August 7, 2013 revised, March 5, 2013 revised

From: Board of Selectmen

To: Charter Review Committee

The Truro Board of Selectmen have unanimously voted to establish an ad hoc Charter Review Committee in accordance with the Truro Town Charter, Chapter 6-4-4 and 9-9-3, with the following Charge:

CHARTER REVIEW COMMITTEE

The Charter Review Committee is hereby established to make recommendations for the revision or amendment of the Truro Charter, such revisions or amendments to be made in accordance with Massachusetts General Laws and the Truro Charter and Bylaws.

The purposes of the Charter review are to clarify ambiguities where they are found to exist, and to strengthen any provisions which seem unclear in their purpose. For an example, see the notes under Chapter One below.

The Charter consists of nine chapters, the most significant of which are listed in the notes below.

Committee Organization: The Committee shall be comprised of five (5) members appointed by the Board of Selectmen.

The Committee will report its recommendations to the Board of Selectmen no later than six months from its first meeting and shall be discharged upon making said recommendations.

NOTES:

Chapter 1 – Form of Government

Chapter 1 states the following:

- 1-2-2 The executive powers of the Town shall be vested in a Board of Selectmen in accordance with the provisions contained in Chapter 4 of this Charter.
- 1-2-3 The administrative functions of the Town shall be exercised by a Town Administrator in accordance with the provisions contained in Chapter 5 of this Charter.

Can the terms executive power and administrative functions be more clearly defined? The Charter says that the Board of Selectmen exercise the policy making function of town government. The Charter also states that the Selectmen may not give any instruction to town employees. If the Selectmen propose a policy that the Town Administrator disagrees with, can they gather information from relevant Department Heads unfiltered by the Town Administrator?

Most significant chapters:

Chapter 2 – The Legislative Branch: Town Meeting

Chapter 4 – The Executive Branch: Board of Selectmen

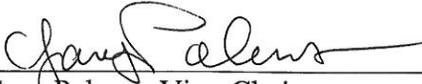
Chapter 5 – Administration: The Town Administrator

Chapter 6 – Multi-member Bodies: Elected and Appointed

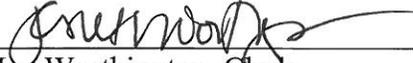
Chapter 7 – Financial Procedures



Breon N. Dunigan, Chairman



Gary Palmer, Vice-Chair



Jan Worthington, Clerk



William F. Golden



Jay Coburn
Board of Selectmen
Town of Truro