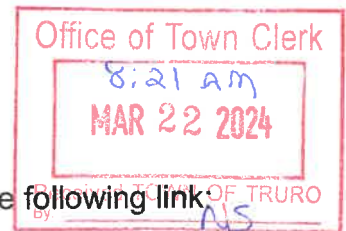


CHARTER REVIEW COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, February 22, 2024, at 5:00 pm EST



Meeting conducted via Virtual-WebEx - recorded and available for review at the following link: <http://trurotv.truro-ma.gov/CablecastPublicSite/show/7077?channel=1>

A quorum of committee members was present:

Nancy Medoff - Chair, Bob Panessiti - Vice Chair, Michael Cohen (Secretary), Chris Lucy, Fred Fehlau, and Brian Boyle. Dave Bannard did not attend.

Chair Medoff called the meeting to order at 5:00 pm, invited the public to call in, and provided the necessary information.

Note: Town Manager Darrin Tangeman, Town Counsel Lauren F. Goldberg, and Select Board liaison to the Charter Review Committee, Sue Areson joined the meeting.

Public Comment Period

- Chair Medoff opened the meeting for public comment. No public comment took place.

Agenda Item – Approval of prior meeting minutes

- A motion was made, and the January 18, 2024, meeting minutes were approved.

Agenda Item – Discussion on Town Counsel recommendations for CRC charter change recommendations sent to the Select Board for consideration at 2024 Town Meeting. Sections 4-5-2 and 6-2-12

- These two Charter sections and language was discussed at length during CRC meetings in August, October and November 2023, ending with final recommendations proposed, motioned and passing with unanimous support at November 15, 2023 meeting.
- A one hour twenty-minute discussion commenced and included Town Manager Darrin Tangeman and Town Counsel Lauren Goldberg
- Town Manager Tangeman inquired about the intent around the proposed language.
- Discussion by CRC around original language which was created in 2013 and intent around proposed language changes.
- Attorney Goldberg provided legal definition of 'dealing with' and 'giving direction' as per Mass General Law and asked for more specifics around CRC intent for proposed changes.
- Discussion by CRC regarding intent with language change; to simplify to create clarity around what individual Board and Committee members can and cannot say or do when seeing or interacting with Town employees.
- Chair Medoff led a discussion around legal counsel's input and the need for proposed language to be worded within the guidelines of Mass General Law, and reiterated that the CRC is trying to support the hierarchy of the Town, business processes of the town, while at the same time allowing the opportunity for board or committee members to interact with Town staff without giving guidance, direction or supervision. Existing language is too broad and limits day to day interaction with the language "deal with" which is vague in opinion of CRC.
- Town Manager Tangeman expressed that his town directors and staff have concerns about the proposed language change.
- Town Manager Tangeman and CRC members discussed examples that had taken place historically, and a potential future floodgate of problems, including exerting indirect political or emotional influence.
- Discussion among the Committee questioning the recommended language and if such language had the potential to create less clarity and even more gray area.

- Attorney Goldberg recommended language that will provide for informal conversations to ensure that these are not be prohibited.
- Chair Medoff suggested additional discussion during the meeting on this agenda topic in order to yield a result that provides more clarity for a powerful recommendation to the Select Board that has been vetted by Town Counsel.
- Attorney Goldberg's recommendation is to *keep the same original Charter language* in 4-5-2 and 6-2-12, **and add; provided, however that nothing in this Charter shall be construed to prohibit informal, non-directive conversations of Board members with other Town officials and employees.**
- Chair Medoff suggested that for purpose of Town Manager evaluations by Select Board, other methods could be used to gather feedback from employees and Select Board could solve for this concern.
- After discussion among the Committee, Bob Panessiti made a motion to accept the language recommendation for 4-5-2 and 6-2-12 by Attorney Lauren Goldberg, was seconded by Michael Cohen, and a roll call was taken. Chair Medoff, Brian Boyle, Bob Panessiti, Michael Cohen and Fred Fehlau, voted yes. Chris Lucy voted no.

Agenda Item – Update on Charter on town website along with modernization of format and access to past versions/evolution of the changes.

- Town Manager Tangeman provided an update for the CRC. The Town of Truro has hired CivicPlus (www.civicplus.com) to upgrade the Town's website.
A few highlights:
 1. Adding a Muni code module that will capture the Charter, captures all the regulatory documents, bylaws and policies. It will have a chronological timeline when changes were made and easily searchable.
 2. Other modules are civic clerk and civic rec.
- As a result, the arduous task of arranging the Town Charters that Fred Fehlau offered to complete, is no longer necessary thanks to CivicPlus, and the Muni code module component that it will be offering.
- Who does the editing, fact checking and background checking for the Muni code before it goes live for accuracy? Incorporating a review process of the different regulatory boards and the documents associated with each before it goes live.
- Orleans, Chatham, Harwich, Provincetown, Eastham, Dennis, Sandwich and Nantucket are just a few towns that had their websites updated.
- The timeline for some modules is prior to July 1, 2024, with other modules coming online in August or September 2024.

Agenda Item – Agreement on next meeting date

- Chair Medoff recommended Thursday, March 21, 2024, at 5:00 pm EDT to include Public Hearing.
- The CRC held off in booking an April

Michael Cohen made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Chris Lucy seconded, and the CRC members approved on a roll call. Accordingly, the public meeting adjourned at 6:37pm EST.

Respectfully submitted,
Michael Cohen

