

Charter Review Committee Minutes

March 24, 2021; 4:00 p.m.

Virtual-WebEx - recorded and available for viewing at the following link: <http://trurotv.truro-ma.gov/CablecastPublicSite/show/4859?channel=1>

A quorum of committee members was present: Robert Panessiti, Brian Boyle, Nancy Medoff, Chris Lucy, and Cheryl Best. (Committee members Bill Golden and Gary Palmer were absent)
Also present were two Select Board Members and the Town Manager.

Meeting was started at 4:00 PM. Chair Panessiti invited the public to call in and gave the necessary information to do so.

Public Comment:

- No public comment

1. Agenda Item – Approval of Minutes

- Ms. Medoff moved to approve minutes. Mr. Boyle seconded and minutes were approved as written.

2. Agenda Item – Review and Prepare Comment on Town Meeting Articles for Select Board

- Mr. Panessiti informed the committee that the Select Board was putting off their decisions on the articles related to changes in the Town Charter, pending recommendations from the CRC. He then informed the committee that we would have a public meeting sometime prior Town Meeting, which is now set for June 26, 2021. The date for the CRC annual public meeting is not yet set.
- Mr. Panessiti shared his desire that people attend CRC meetings to make recommendations rather than using the petition process. He then suggested that the CRC make no recommendations to the Select Board regarding the petitioned articles because we are still engaged in a process, which is aimed at determining those recommendations.
- Mr. Tangeman, the Truro Town Manager, was invited to speak on the topic. He shared his opinion regarding the increase of elected bodies in town. There were questions and further discussion regarding his conjecture on the topic. He also provided information on the gradual process of transitioning multi-member bodies.
- The committee discussed the wording of the CRC's recommendations to the Select Board and the purpose of the annual public meeting.
 - Action Item: Mr. Panessiti will go to the next SB meeting to share that we are not making any recommendations on petitioned articles because we are currently engaged in an ongoing process for making those determinations.

3. Agenda Item – Schedule Public Hearing and Comments

- There was brief discussion regarding the annual CRC public meeting. Ms. Areson added that it was a new requirement and shared her goals when she spearheaded it. There was committee agreement that the annual public meeting would be an appropriate venue for suggesting how citizens might bring their charter change ideas to the attention of the CRC.

4. Agenda Item – Update on Survey Software for Consideration of Elected vs. Appointed Boards and any Further Discussion

- Mr. Boyle shared that he looked at Google forms and that it would require some training to shift our survey to that platform. He was not able to speak about “Bang-The-Table”, the survey instrument already licensed by the town, because he had no access to it.
 - Action Item: Mr. Panessiti will try to get access for Mr. Boyle, who will check it out and have a recommendation on what platform to use by our next meeting.

5. Agenda Item – Review Language and Discuss Charter Recommendations

- [Section 2.3.3: It was agreed at the previous meeting to recommend changing 10 signatures to 30 signatures]
- **Section 6.4.7:ADD excused absences at the discretion of the committee chair**
- **Section 4.1.2:** In considering a change from the word *shall* to the word *may*, Mr. Panessiti suggested we think about the time frame in which this change might be appropriate and discuss it at a later date.
- **Section 6.2.11:** Addition of new section regarding removal of members from boards. There was a discussion on this new section. All agreed to move forward with the recommendation pending review of language, which will be written by Mr. Panessiti. His initial suggested language was:
 - *Upon a majority vote of the multi member body a recommendation for removal may be made to the appointing authority. Upon consideration and a majority vote the said member may be removed. The vacancy would then be filled as provided for in the Charter.*
 - Action Item: Mr. Panessiti will work on revisions to the above, adding some language regarding cause for removal, and will have completed language at the next meeting for committee review.
- **Section 6.2.10:** Regarding appointment of new members to empty seats. Amended language written by Ms. Medoff. See below:
 - CHANGE TO: *...If the vacancy is not filled within sixty days of the notification, the vacancy may be filled by a majority vote of the remaining members of the body with confirmation required by Select Board within sixty days of new member start date.*

The meeting was adjourned at 5:25pm

Next meeting planned for April 19, 2021 from 4:00PM – 5:30PM

Respectfully Submitted



Cheryl Best
Submitted May 6, 2021

