

Charter Review Committee Minutes

March 1, 2022 at 4:15PM

Virtual-WebEx - recorded and available for viewing at the following link: <http://trurotv.truro-ma.gov/CablecastPublicSite/show/5270?channel=1>

A quorum of committee members was present: Brian Boyle, Nancy Medoff, Cheryl Best, Robert Panessiti, Chris Lucy, and Bill Golden. Meg Royka was absent due to a medical issue.

The meeting was started at 4:17 PM. Chair Boyle invited the public to call in and gave necessary information to do so. Select Board member Ms. Reed signed onto the meeting zoom at 4:54PM.

1. Public Comment:

- a. No public comment

2. Agenda Item – Approval of minutes for Dec 20, Jan 24 and Jan 25 meetings

- a. Dec 20 - Ms. Best made a motion to accept the December 20, 2021 meeting minutes as written. Mr. Golden seconded the motion. The minutes were unanimously approved by roll-call vote.
- b. Jan 24 - Ms. Best made a motion to accept the January 24, 2022 meeting minutes as written. Mr. Golden seconded the motion. Ms. Medoff suggested added bullets to a few of the conversations and moved to accept the minutes with added bullets. Ms. Best seconded and all voted to amend the minutes with suggested additions and approve them at the next meeting.
- c. Jan 25 - Chair Boyle stated that he had received an email from a CRC member regarding another member on the committee and he would address it individually. Mr. Golden made a motion to table the January 25, 2022 meeting minutes until the next meeting. Ms. Medoff seconded and, on a unanimous roll call vote, the January 25, 2022 minutes were postponed to the next meeting.

3. Agenda Item - Committee's annual schedule and charge

There was a brief discussion regarding possible dates for the public hearing and how it was handled in the previous year. Chair Boyle clarified the purposes of the public hearing before town meeting. (as a report of the year's work), and the one in July, (as a means to gather input on the upcoming year's work).

Action Item: Chair Boyle will roll the spring public hearing into our April meeting around the 20th of the month.

4. Appointed vs. Elected Committee/Boards

Reopening discussion: Planning Board, ZBA, Board of Health, and Cemetery Commission

- i. Chair Boyle summarized the past information gathered by the CRC. He then reiterated the list of things that still need to be done in the study as per prior discussions documented in previous minutes (see Appendix A below).
- ii. Chair Boyle opened a discussion on formulating a framework and structure for going forward with a project plan.

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- The discussion included various points from committee members such as a need for structure, a need for a timeline with decision deadlines, and a published plan that informs the public at which meetings different committees would be discussed.
- The next topic related to interviewing petitioners and how necessary and practical it was. Discussion points included: the need for uniformity in process from committee to committee; how to manage and control content at meetings; and time limits on speakers.
 - Action Item: Chair Boyle will ask staff at Town Hall how we would contact and invite petitions from all of the warrant articles related to committee election vs. appointment.
- The next topic related to interviewing committee chairs. Discussion points included: the relative importance of inviting chairs; the issues related to having chairs and petitioners at the same meeting; the possibility of having specific time frames for specific speakers; the possibility of having two different meetings for chairs and petitioners; and the establishment of norms for conduct at the meetings.
- The next topic related to interviewing residents of other towns. Discussion points included: hearing pros and cons from residents of other towns on their structure of elected vs. appointed; the difficulty of choosing the right invitees; the relative value of their input to our decision making; the possibility that we are over-engineering the study; whether MMA may have a white paper on this topic; and the fact that the structure we choose needs to be transferrable to all committees in town as the study is expanded. There was a clarification that we are talking about the second version of our study of the four committees, which would improve our initial process and could lead to version three for other committees.
 - Action Item: Chair Boyle will contact the Mass. Municipal Association to explore what they might have on the topic.
- Mr. Golden left the meeting at 5:45PM
- Ms. Medoff referred the committee to the motion she made at the last meeting and questioned whether we should vote. Chair Boyle clarified that as per Roberts Rules, we can amend a motion previously passed but that a motion to reconsider can only be made at the same meeting and by someone on the prevailing side and that it requires a 2/3 vote to pass. He added that it would be in poor form to vote with two members missing. There was some discussion on this point. Ms. Medoff then asked that one of the majority move to amend the vote so we can move forward.
- There was some discussion on various interpretations of the November motion. Chair Boyle then moved to amend the motion as follows:
 - New Motion: That the CRC recommend to the Select Board that the 4 committees we studied at the request of the public (Planning Board, Cemetery Commission, Zoning Board of Appeals, and Board of

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Health) all remain with their current manner of filling seats as outlined in the charter until such time as the CRC finds information to warrant a change with respect to any one or more of said committees during our continued study of each board on an individual basis.

- Mr. Lucy seconded the motion. There was some discussion. Ms. Medoff called the question. Mr. Panessiti seconded. On a roll-call vote, all were in favor to call the question. Chair Boyle reread the added language, (underlined above). On another unanimous roll call vote the motion was amended as written above.

5. Items under consideration for calendar 2022 docket - (see Appendix B - attached)

Chair Boyle referred to Appendix B. He added that once we get additional items at our public hearing he will consolidate the list and he will note the source of each item.

6. Other issues from any Committee members

Mr. Panessiti asked Ms. Best why she remarked that he did not support a review of the Ipswich study. Ms. Best explained that she initially brought up the Ipswich study at her first meeting on the CRC in reference to statistics about elected vs. appointed Planning Boards in off-Cape shore towns as being different than those gathered from on-Cape towns. She shared that it was her understanding at the time that Mr. Panessiti felt those towns were different from ours and therefore did not want to pursue that study as part of our work. She apologized for any misunderstanding that she or Mr. Panessiti may have had regarding the introduction of the Ipswich study. They then discussed their general interactions and shared that they might both self-reflect on their communications with one another.

Action Item: Chair Boyle will distribute the Ipswich study to all committee members.

7. Next meeting - The next meeting was scheduled tentatively for March 30, [at 4:15PM].

Action Item: Chair Boyle will reach out to the two absent members, Mr. Golden and Ms. Royka, regarding the meeting date.

Ms. Medoff made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Lucy seconded. All were in favor on a roll call vote and the meeting was adjourned at 6:20PM

Respectfully submitted on 03/30/2022



Cheryl Best

(Attachment below)

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APPENDIX A
Additional Potential Information

Truro Board Survey Design
Truro Board Survey Responses

Interviews
Truro Town Planner – 2021
Petitioners
Other

Other Towns' Materials
Ipswich Planning Board

Other Towns' Data
Elected/Appointed by Board

MMA

APPENDIX B
Docket candidates for Calendar 2022

1. Gender neutral charter changes – status update
2. Petition form – status update
3. 3 vs 5 Year Terms
4. Community engagement in town government
5. Nepotism
6. School budget

