

CHARTER REVIEW COMMITTEE - MEETING AND PUBLIC HEARING MINUTES THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2022

Meeting conducted via Virtual -WebEx – recorded and available for reviewing at the following link:
<http://trurotv.truro-ma.gov/CablecastPublicSite/show/5491?channel=1>

A quorum of committee members was present:

Nancy Medoff - Chair, Robert Panessiti – Vice Chair, Michael Cohen, Brian Boyle and Raphael Richter. Chris Lucy was not present. Chair Medoff informed the CRC that Meg Royka resigned.

Chair Medoff called the meeting to order at 4:15 PM and invited the public to call in and provided the necessary information to do so.

Public Comment Period – took place at the beginning of the meeting. No activity took place.

Agenda Item – Approval of minutes from the Charter Review Committee meeting from Thursday, October 20, 2022

Chair Medoff asked if there were any amendments to the minutes. Having none, a roll-call vote was taken to approve the minutes as written.

Agenda Item – Continued discussion on charter change section 6-4-2 Appointed Multi-member Bodies – Cemetery Commission & Truro Housing Authority

- Cemetery Commission Chairwoman - Holly Ballard Gardner (participated for a second time in a CRC meeting) and provided the CRC with an in-depth overview of the Cemetery Commission (referred going forward as CC). Ms. Gardner touched on several topics that included the following:
 1. A tutorial of the twenty-five acres of open land for seven cemeteries in the Town of Truro.
 2. The required skillset needed to serve. The CC defers to a “on-the-job” training for skills required to be on the board.
 3. Her personal historical perspective of the Cemetery Commission.
 4. A Commission that oversees a \$34,000 annual budget.
- Within the discussion, some additional key points were discussed:
 1. Management of the cemeteries, landscaping, historic preservation, sale of lots, burial permitting, record keeping, community service and public outreach.
 2. They are an independent body of three that does not report to the Select Board.
 3. Looking to digitalize the records.
- Some long-term strategic goals (some are capital related and others are not):
 1. Open-source software for GPS maps of the cemeteries.
 2. Expanding community education.
 3. Increase access for info online.
 4. Document and preserve some of the headstones.
 5. Maintenance.
- Ms. Gardner’s opinion and that of the CC, is that they should continue to be an elected body because they are efficient and effective under that framework. The CC would not benefit from more bureaucracy because the assets are quite particular.
- A robust CRC conversation took place with Ms. Gardner regarding the fiduciary responsibility of the CC. Some highlights:
 1. The CRC discussed where does the CC fall under the big picture of governance.
 2. Perpetual care, an important component, and current maintenance were also discussed under the fiduciary umbrella. The pros and cons questions were asked by the CRC to Ms. Gardner. It was summarized with elected works, and it is not broken. No cons were given to the CRC by Holly.
- Since the topic of appointed versus elected is going to be included in the January 2023, Truro Housing Authority meeting, the consensus of the CRC, at this time, it will hold off any recommendation(s) until after the January 2023 Truro Housing Authority meeting takes place.

Agenda Item – Continued discussion on Planning Board & Truro Housing Authority, three versus five-year

- Ann Greenbaum - Chairwoman of the Truro Planning Board (referred going forward as PB) joined the CRC as a follow up from her appearance in last month's CRC meeting. The learning curve of the PB, its content matter, and the decision process was the central focus of the discussion. It seems the sweet spot for a PB term is for four-years. It was made clear by PB members that a three-year term was insufficient. However, Massachusetts law states a PB term must be either a three-year OR a five-year term.
- Chairwoman Greenbaum mentioned that trying to deal with fact is not as easy as one would think. Ms. Greenbaum is currently finishing her 4th year on the PB. From her experience, she broke down the role to a microlevel by explaining the widespread scope of work that must be completed within the month that usurps a three-year versus a five-year term.
- The topic of PB alternates was discussed. Although it is intriguing, the thought of the CRC was that a PB Alternate would be a potential tool to the PB. However, Ms. Greenbaum countered with that it would be an impediment by adding time to the PB workload.
- The CRC decided to table the Truro Housing Authority three versus five-year until January 2023.

**Agenda Item – Continued discussion on future consideration Charter Section 4-2-11
Planning Board goals and objectives**

- The CRC decided to wait until Chris Lucy can participate in the December 2022 CRC meeting to have a further discussion on 4-2-11.
- Chairwoman Greenbaum reinforced from last month's meeting her position that goals for the many committees on the town website makes sense, and that it is not limited to just the PB.
- The CRC would like our Select Board liaison to provide some perspective as it relates to oversight before we continue too much further.
- The discussion of appointed versus elected and the perception that is perceived for each was discussed.

Agenda Item – Continued discussion on request and plan to modernize Charter

- The CRC tabled this discussion until the next meeting.

Agenda Item – Next Meeting Dates

- Thursday, December 15, 2022, January 26, 2023, March 2, 2023, at 4:15pm approved unanimously

Bob Panesitti made a motion to adjourn the public meeting. Brian Boyle seconded, and all approved on a roll call. The public hearing adjourned at 6:20 PM EDT.

Respectfully submitted,
Michael Cohen