

Minutes Accepted 9/28/2022

Charter Review Committee Minutes
Wednesday September 21, 2022 - 7:00 PM
Jaillet Meeting Room - Westwood Police Station
588 High Street
Westwood, MA 02090

Call To Order:

The meeting was called to order at approximately 7:03 pm by Co-Chair Paul Fitzgerald.

Present:

Paul Fitzgerald-Co-Chairman, Peter Cahill-Co-Chairman, Nancy Hyde, John Loughnane and Dottie Powers.

Ex-Officio Member: Patrick Ahearn, Town Counsel.

Jessica Cole recorded the Minutes.

Welcome:

Approval of Minutes July 6, 2022 meeting:

Upon a motion made by Mr. Loughnane and seconded by Mr. Cahil, The Charter Review Committee voted in favor (5-0) via roll call vote to accept the minutes from July 6, 2022 as presented.

Introduction of Dottie Powers as the fifth voting member of the Charter Review Committee:

Mr. Fitzgerald introduced Dottie Powers, she was appointed by the Select Board and is now a full voting member of the Charter Review Committee.

Review/Discuss the responses to the survey received:

Board Comments:

- Board members felt that the survey was informative.
- Members were open to hear how it went last time.
- Seems like people did not have a lot to say.
- When we meet with the departments we will probably be able to make some changes.
- The Committee was pleased with the number of the responses.
- Interesting things to think about and address.
- People are fairly content.
- Generally everyone from a Board was invited last time.
- Prioritize what seems to be more necessary to discuss.
 - Pam Dukeman may have a lot of thoughts and she will retire October 21st.
 - James Galvin too.
 - Jim O'Sullivan and his appointment authority.
- When we invite them, they will need to be prepared with the survey
- At the appropriate time, ask for feedback.
- Night #1- Finance night: Treasurer, Fin Com, Tax Collector
- Night #2: Select Board, Moderator & Planning Board
- Let's focus on what we can and then maybe expand.
- Do the Town Clerk and Town Counsel want to come in?
- How do we prepare our questions? *Last time the Chair asked the questions.*
- Submit questions in advance? *Any Committee member can ask a question, have it happen organically.*

- What is the best thing for the Town to do?
- What do other communities do, would like Attorney Goldberg's opinion?
- Look into quorum?
- Representative Town meeting.
- We need to educate the new generation
Charter 101 - This is how the Town of Westwood works.
- Recommend some best practices.
- Visit Indefinite Postponement.
- Should spell out the voting process at Town meetings.
- Govt 101 has been discussed. Make it available-maybe K&P has it.
- Do something with WMC
- Ms. Powers suggested going through the Charter on the screen.
Google: Westwood Bylaws to find them.

Discuss invitations/schedule for meetings with elected/appointed officials:

Start with the Finance: Finance & Warrant Commission-Chair and Vice Chair, Pam Dukeman and James Gavin, new Tax Collector and the Audit Committee.

Phil Shapiro may step into Treasurer, he has a wealth of knowledge, and the Committee will extend an invitation once he is appointed.

Regular citizens can come and speak.

Future Meeting Dates/Times (September 28th and October 5th):

September 28th: Finance Night-Mr. Ahearn-Call James Gavin-Ms. Powers will talk to Pam Dukeman(7pm). Ms. Hyde will contact Finance & Warrant Commission (7:40) and Elaine deReyna-(8:15)

No need to have Attorney Goldberg here next week, but will follow up.

Wednesday Oct 12: Town Moderator-Jim O' Sullivan and Select Board-Chris Coleman will reach out to members individually, and Planning Board Chair-Mr. Fitzgerald will call Chair Chris Pfaff.

Wednesday October 19: Public Input Meeting

Public Participation:

None

Other Business:

Public on October 19 at 7pm at the Police Station -Dottie will add to The Wire.

Book the room-Ms. Cole.

Invite Westwood former appointed/elected residents.

Mr. Ahearn will speak to Tom McCusker

Charter Commission Invites members of the Committee and may have suggestions.

Adjourn:

Upon a motion made by Ms. Hyde and seconded by Ms. Powers, The Charter Review Committee voted in favor (5-0) via roll call vote to adjourn at 8:11 pm.