

Minutes Accepted 5/8/2024

Charter Review Committee Minutes  
Monday April 1, 2024 -8:00am  
Jaillet Meeting Room - Westwood Police Station  
588 High Street  
Westwood, MA 02090

**Welcome**

**Call To Order**

The meeting was called to order at approximately 8:02am by Co-Chair Paul Fitzgerald.

**Present**

Paul Fitzgerald-Co-Chair, Nancy Hyde, John Loughnane & Dottie Powers, Town Clerk.  
Ex-Officio Member: Patrick Ahearn, Town Counsel & Christopher Coleman, Town Administrator.  
Jessica Cole recorded the Minutes.

**Discussion of Any Potential Actions by the Committee to their recommended May 2024 Annual Warrant Articles**

Mr. Fitzgerald asked for recommendations.

Ms. Hyde recommended withdrawing all 8 articles and regrouping.

We want to get it right, it is a permanent change.

We can have the Select Board pull all 8 warrant articles.

Withdraw so that everyone has all the material that is needed. Don't want to rush into a decision.

The focus was that FinCom did not have all the materials, but chose indefinite postponement for only some, not all articles.

If we withdraw, what do we do next?

We need a statement for Fin Com.

The Charter Review members were in agreement to withdraw the articles.

We decided to not do 1 article, we wanted to break it down into separate articles.

**Discuss/Vote Recommended Charter Committee May 2024 Warrant Articles**

**Action Taken:**

Upon a motion made by Ms. Hyde and seconded by Mr. Loughnane, the Charter Review Committee voted in favor (4-0) to recommend to the Select Board withdrawal of the 8 Articles, on the basis that it is more important to get it right.

**Board Comments:**

Tonight at the Select Board meeting, the suggestion is because FinCom felt that they did not have all of the information needed.

We need to ensure that the Town is well served.

The Town deserves our best efforts.

**Review and Discuss Charter Review Committee attending Select Board meeting on April 1, 2024**

Mr. Fitzgerald recommended withdrawing the 8 articles.

We thought we provided it in the best way possible.

Too important not to do this in the right way.

We will follow the suggestions of the Select Board.

We would like to engage FinCom in discussion.

**New Business not anticipated by the Chair.**

- How do we communicate? Consider re-grouping in early June.
- Have a clean Charter with no dates on it.
- Mr. Coleman suggested the Charter Review Committee review the Finance & Warrant Commission Public Meeting.

**Public Participation**

None.

**Discuss and vote on future meeting dates**

April 1, 2024 Charter Review Committee attending the Select Board meeting via Zoom.

**Adjournment**

Upon a motion made by Ms. Hyde and seconded by Mr. Loughnane, the Charter Review Committee voted in favor (5-0) to adjourn at 8:47am.