

Accepted Minutes-9/9/2024

Charter Review Committee Minutes
Wednesday May 8, 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 8:06 am 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.
Special Counsel for the Charter Review Committee, Attorney Lauren Goldberg.
Jessica Cole recorded the Minutes.

Review and Consideration of current proposed draft revisions to Westwood Town Charter

Mr. Fitzgerald stated that the members of the Charter Review Committee have been re-appointed. It was a 2-1 vote.

Ms. Powers met with the new Select Board Chair, who did not want to go forward with the Charter Review, and felt there needed to be more groups to look into each area the Charter Review Committee looked into.

The Committee agreed that they did an exhaustive review of the Charter and that the work is sound.

All recommendations should be brought to the Town.

Consider simplifying things further.

The Committee wants to do what is best for the Town.

Mr. Fitzgerald would like the Committee to talk to the Select Board again.

Discussion and Evaluation of Charter Committees processes and strategy to date.

All in one article? Or prefer 3 articles? Tech, Quorum and Town Clerk?

The Charter Review Committee would like the support of the Select Board.

Mr. Fitzgerald suggested 2 articles

- Incorporating Technical, housekeeping
- Town Clerk.

Discussion of Charter Committee's future plan of action regarding drafting and public presentations of proposed revisions to Westwood Town Charter

The Committee wants to explain the reasons and educate the residents.

Clean up the Charter, have it be a readable document. Quorum & Town Clerk.

Need Finance & Warrant Commission support.

Wait until May Town Meeting.

Go to the Select Board with our recommendations.

A grassroots effort was suggested. Library, Planning Board, School Committee.

Approach the Finance & Warrant Commission and provide in writing what they want and when they want.

Need a package for Finance & Warrant Commission: Clean copy, Black Line, Final Report & add tabs.

Do some Westwood Media Center videos.

How does the Moderator deal with Amendments? *Mr. Fitzgerald: He asks for them to be in writing, and asks Mr. Ahearn and Mr. Fitzgerald.*

What is best for the Town? Get it to the people.

Mr. Coleman suggested having materials online.

Discussion of recommendations to the Select Board regarding composition of the Charter Committee and the Committee's future deliberations and work.

Mr. Coleman suggested that we invite the Select Board members and Town Moderator to a meeting.

Mr. Ahearn recommended private conversations and then a public meeting. Follow Open Meeting Laws.

Select Board Chair Previterra asked to have coffee with Mr. Fitzgerald.

Mr. Ahearn suggested that Mr. Loughnane speak to Mr. Gotti.

Have a meeting with the Select Board at their meeting and look for feedback, then discuss meetings with Fin Com.

Approval of Minutes: March 13, 2024, March 26, 2024, April 1, 2024 & April 1, 2024

Upon a motion made by Ms. Hyde and seconded by Mr. Loughnane, the Charter Review Committee voted in favor (4-0) to accept the minutes from March 13, 2024 as presented.

Upon a motion made by Mr. Loughnane and seconded by Ms. Hyde, the Charter Review Committee voted in favor (3-0-1-Fitzgerald) to accept the minutes from March 26, 2024 at the Finance and Warrant Commission Public Hearing as presented.

Upon a motion made by Mr. Loughnane and seconded by Ms. Hyde, the Charter Review Committee voted in favor (4-0) to accept the minutes from April 1, 2024 as presented.

Upon a motion made by Ms. Powers and seconded by Mr. Loughnane, the Charter Review Committee voted in favor (4-0) via roll call vote to accept the minutes from April 1, 2024 at the Select Board meeting as presented.

New Business

- Will schedule an in-person meeting with a date to be determined.
- A document was received regarding the Town Clerk position from a resident who is also an elected official, the Committee will consider getting the letter on the record and respond in writing.

Other Business not anticipated by the Chair.

None.

Adjournment

Upon a motion made by Ms. Hyde and seconded by Mr. Loughnane, the Charter Review Committee voted in favor (4-0) to adjourn at 8:57am.