

TOWN OF PROVINCETOWN
Charter Review Ad Hoc Committee
MEETING MINUTES OF
October 15, 2013

MEETING HELD IN THE CAUCUS HALL MEETING ROOM

Members Present: Judith Cicero, Thomas Coen, Doug Johnstone, Ann Maguire, Julia Perry, Mark Phillips, Robert Speiser, Robert Vetrick.

Members Absent: Marcy Feller (excused), David McGlothlin (excused), Elizabeth Williams (excused).

Others Present: None

Chair Julia Perry called the meeting to order at 5:00 pm.

Minutes of the October 1, 2013 meeting were reviewed.

Ann Maguire moved to approve the meeting minutes of October 1, 2013, Robert Vetrick seconded and it was so voted, 8-0-0.

Public Statements: None.

Chair Julia Perry distributed a comparison chart of existing and proposed corrections to the Charter that she will maintain throughout the review process, and also a potential Charter reorganization chart based on discussions. Julia Perry also said that she is working on a comparison chart with the Provincetown and Truro Charters when similar issues are addressed that can be used as a reference.

Thomas Coen – Reminded committee that they may be required to provide additional guidance to boards as needed.

Doug Johnstone updated the committee that he had sent an e-mail to the Selectmen with the Committee's introductory message attached, and also an e-mail with committee message attached to all of the boards listed in the Charter (a total of 19 boards), with the remaining boards not listed in the Charter to be contacted at a later date, along with a special outreach to the Board of Selectmen and Town Moderator.

The committee discussed the need to consider how boards are listed in the Charter.

The committee discussed the timeline for the review process and Chair Julia Perry will create a proposed timeline and bring back to the committee for discussion.

Continued Discussion of Charter: The Committee resumed a review of the Charter beginning with Chapter 5, Section 1, highlighting areas that may need further attention and/or clarification, as follows:

- 5-1-2 Robert Speiser – Grammatical error.
- 5-1-3 Robert Speiser – Questioned placement.
- 5-1-3 Thomas Coen – Section refers back to 3-1-2 but needs clarification.

Chapter 5, Section 2

Thomas Coen – Needs scope and authority for all boards and a definition of purpose.
Ann Maguire – Suggested that scope and authority and a definition of purpose be added to all town boards.

5-2-3 Thomas Coen – Suggested adding word “individual” to the last sentence to read “...or *individual* members of those committees.”

5-2-5 Doug Johnstone – Modernize language.

5-2-7 Doug Johnstone – Modernize language.

5-2-10 Thomas Coen – What authority does the Charter Enforcement Commission have other than court? Needs further investigation. How does the Commission obtain compliance with decision(s)? Thomas Coen to investigate what other towns do.

5-2-10 Robert Speiser – Change “shall” to “may.”

Doug Johnstone – Will investigate how Charter Enforcement Commission Charter violation hearings were resolved in the past to reveal compliance or conformance issues.

Chapter 5, Sections 3 & 4

None.

Chapter 5, Section 5

Thomas Coen – Should reference MGL.

5-5-2 Thomas Coen – Questioned why this is mentioned here – organizational issue?

Chapter 6

Thomas Coen – Consider adding Ad Hoc Committees here.

Ann Maguire – Consider adding a third category: Ad Hoc (Temporary) Committees.

Mark Phillips – Consider qualifications for committees and/or committee members (example: Board of Health one member “shall be a professional health practitioner.”)

Chapter 6, Sections 1 through 4

None.

Chapter 6, Section 5

Thomas Coen – Needs further examination/investigation.

Mark Phillips – Should it be a standing or an ad hoc committee as building projects arise?

6-5-2 Julia Perry – Amend first sentence by adding phrase “or on behalf of the town” to read “...for any construction work to be done by *or on behalf of* the town.”

Chapter 6, Section 6

None.

Chapter 6, Section 7

Judith Cicero – Consider adding qualifications to this section for one member.

Robert Vetrick – Highlight advisory role and clarify.

Thomas Coen – Considering adding a clause in this section as contained in the Truro Charter (Chapter 6, section 4) “...shall be voters and shall not hold elected office *nor be a candidate for elected office*...”

Chapter 6, Section 8

6-8-1 Robert Speiser – Amend first sentence adding words “at least” to read “...*at least* one of whom shall be a professional health practitioner, and ...”

Discussion of the Charter ended at Chapter 6, Section 9, to be taken up at the next meeting.

A general discussion ensued regarding need to consider non-registered voter participation, and instances where Charter may place too much power in any one individual.

Next Steps: Continued review of Charter beginning with Chapter 6, Section 9. Chair Julia Perry asked members to continue their review of the Charter with Chapters 7, 8 and 9 and bring questions/suggestions to the next meeting.

Chair Julia Perry to provide a report from the Charter Review Ad Hoc Committee at the October 21, 2013 Special Town Meeting.

NEXT MEETING: The next meeting will take place on October 29, 2013 at 5:00 P.M.

FUTURE MEETINGS SCHEDULED:

November 12, 2013 at 5:00 P.M.

November 26, 2013 at 5:00 P.M.

December 10, 2013 at 5:00 P.M.

January 7, 2014 at 5:00 P.M.

ADJOURNMENT: *Doug Johnstone moved to adjourn at 6:00 P.M. and it was so voted unanimously.*

Respectfully submitted,
Doug Johnstone