

TOWN OF PROVINCETOWN
Charter Review Ad Hoc Committee
MEETING MINUTES OF
January 7, 2014

MEETING HELD IN THE CAUCUS HALL MEETING ROOM

Members Present: Judith Cicero, Thomas Coen, Marcy Feller, Doug Johnstone, Ann Maguire, David McGlothlin, Julia Perry, Robert Speiser, Robert Vetrick, Elizabeth Williams.

Members Absent: Mark Phillips (excused).

Others Present: None

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

Minutes of the December 10, 2013 meeting were reviewed.

Thomas Coen moved to approve the meeting minutes of December 10, 2013 as amended, Robert Vetrick seconded and it was so voted, 8-0-0.

Public Statements: None.

Judith Cicero joined the meeting at 5:05 pm.

Ann Maguire joined the meeting at 5:08 pm.

Committee Timeline: Chair Julia Perry discussed draft timeline and that it was created to provide the committee a sense of how to structure the work process in order to have a formal revision to present to Town Meeting voters at the April 2015 Annual Town Meeting. It was agreed to place the timeline on the Town website, titled "Working Timeline for the Charter Review Ad Hoc Committee" as of _____ (include the date), subject to change, in order to maintain fluidity as may be needed as the committee works through the revision process.

Committee Budget: Doug Johnstone provided an update that the proposed expenditures are now incorporated onto the Selectmen's FY 2015 budget and are now a part of the budget process now underway.

Board Response/Feedback: Doug Johnstone to e-mail a follow-up message to those boards listed in the Charter within the week soliciting their input.

Chair Julia Perry reported that she has received two responses from the public, one from Selectmen Tom Donegan, and one from Greg Craig. Julia will incorporate these comments into the review process as each issue is addressed by the committee. Marcy Feller asked if this information could be shared to members via e-mail. Doug Johnstone reminded members that information may be shared via e-mail for informational purposes only to be brought back or discussed at a future meeting, and asked members to keep this in mind and not comment or respond in order to avoid violating the requirements of the Open Meeting Law. Chair Julia Perry

agreed to e-mail information to members as requested.

Residency Requirement for Chief of Police & DPW Director: Chair Julia Perry tabled the agenda item for discussion at a future meeting.

Discussion of the Charter beginning with Chapter 9: The Committee went through each section highlighting areas that may need further attention and/or clarification, as follows:

Robert Speiser – Remove “The” from Section 1 and title simply, “Annual Budget.”

Thomas Coen – No mention of the School Committee in this section. While it appears in Chapter 5, consider moving to Chapter 9. Also pointed out that there is no mention of a 5-year plan in addition to the Capital Improvement Program, and no prior planning in advance of the budget process indicated. Suggested reviewing the Wellfleet Charter that was recently revised to see how they addressed these issues. Thomas to produce a draft of Chapter 9 based on information from other towns, comparing and contrasting the process in place here for discussion and review by the committee at a future meeting.

Julia Perry – Little or no discussion of the Finance Committee’s role in the budget process.

Doug Johnstone – Role of the Finance Committee needs to be clarified.

Judith Cicero – Questioned how Finance Committee is appointed. Feels too much power is in the hands of one individual limiting diversity of opinion.

Julia Perry – Will need to determine whether to expand Chapter 6 or add to Chapter 9.

Robert Speiser – Suggested describing the Finance Committee in Chapter 6, and listing specific functions of Finance Committee in Chapter 9.

Thomas Coen – Will work on consolidating General by-laws into the Charter where appropriate to this Chapter.

Discussion of the Charter ended within Chapter 9 as a whole, with continued discussion of Chapter 9 to be taken up at the next meeting, and proceeding to Chapter 10.

Chair Julia Perry discussed the need to expand the hour meeting time and the general consensus was that the committee will expand the length of the meeting time to one hour and 15 minutes for future meetings.

Next Steps: Continued review of Charter beginning with continued discussion of Chapter 9.

Chair Julia Perry asked members to continue their review of the Charter with Chapters 10 and 11 and bring questions/suggestions to the next meeting.

Discussion of a draft residency requirement for the Chief of Police and DPW Director.

NEXT MEETING: The next meeting will take place on January 21, 2014 at 5:00 P.M.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Doug Johnstone