

TOWN OF PROVINCETOWN
Charter Review Ad Hoc Committee
MEETING MINUTES OF
March 18, 2014

MEETING HELD IN THE CAUCUS HALL MEETING ROOM

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

Members Absent: Doug Johnstone, Mark Phillips (excused).

1. Chair J. Perry called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm. R. Speiser left and was excused at 5:45 pm.
2. On motion of R. Vetrick, second by R. Speiser, the minutes of the March 4, 2014 meeting were approved unanimously.
3. Members of the public present were Kitty Cotter and John Paul Bianchi who briefly introduced himself and his role in the Non-Resident Taxpayer Association. Mr. Bianchi thanked J. Perry for having met with him, each on behalf of their respective committees.
4. The Chair addressed the timeline confirming the next meeting scheduled for April 1, 2014. The committee was reminded that Town Meeting is set for April 7, 2014.
5. J. Perry advised that, on average each 2 week period, 3 to 4 town boards/committees respond to this Committee's request for input. Most recently, the Committee received comments from Recreation and Recycling Committees, as well as the Fire Engineers.
6. Discussion was held regarding the first draft revision of Charter Chapter 8, Public Safety, prepared by J. Perry. J. Perry reported that Acting Town Manager Gardner had expressed concerns about Charter non-compliance arising from the continuing non-residence of the current Director of the DPW. J. Perry then had the opportunity to brief the Charter Enforcement Committee. That Committee has proposed extending the grace period within which designated town officials must establish residency from 3 to 6 months.

With respect to the draft, D. McGlothlin (?) observed that the Superintendent of Schools is not a town resident. R. Speiser mentioned that the residency requirement currently applies only to positions concerned with public safety. There ensued a general discussion of the purpose of the residency requirement and which officials it should pertain to. J. Perry reminded the Committee of previous discussions of this

issue, and that one of the suggestions had been to make provision for waiver under specified conditions, as described in 8-5-2 of the proposed draft. In addition, the Committee discussed the need to articulate a chain of command in the event full time resident public safety officials are out of town in the event of an emergency condition. J. Cicero reminded the Committee that the relatively higher cost of living in Provincetown as compared with other Cape towns could be a limiting factor in hiring. A. Maguire also emphasized that residents have a greater interest in local affairs. She also agreed with J. Cicero that a workable emergency management plan was needed, however the Committee consensus was that the emergency plan need not be an expressed part of the charter. T. Coen commented that the final emergency plan should be on the Town website.

T. Coen raised additional issues for consideration, e.g. who appoints the Fire Chief. J. Perry mentioned that the Acting Chief of Police has offered to attend this Committee's meetings.

T. Coen reminded the Committee that the proposed revision of Ch. 8 is an initial draft, and not yet voted on by the Committee. J. Perry proposed that the public should have an opportunity to comment on proposed Charter revisions before this Committee votes to finalize them. T. Coen mentioned that the public may be expecting this Committee to present a finalized recommendation. J. Perry observed that such a recommendation would not be expected until Fall, 2014, and that in any case the public's input would be needed. T. Coen then proposed to frame the public discussion by presenting the issues rather than proposing language, and emphasized the need to focus the public discussion. J. Perry anticipated public discussion during the summer. She suggested that the Committee members review the draft and be prepared to offer comments at the next meeting.

R. Speiser sought direction regarding steps to be taken after sections of the Charter are assigned to the various Committee members for initial revision. J. Perry addressed the assignment to Committee members of re-writing portions of the Charter, and asked members to volunteer at the next meeting if they have an interest in addressing particular sections. She volunteered to continue working on Ch. 8 and suggested that D. Johnstone handle modernizing the language as required. The Chair reminded the members that if more than one person worked on any section, minutes of that sub-committee were required, per advice of the town counsel. T. Coen offered to take responsibility for initially redrafting Ch. 9 regarding Financial Procedures, in addition to Ch. 6 section 7 regarding the Finance Committee, and any other sections pertaining to finances. The Committee agreed that the Finance Committee should be added to the list of those that must include elected officials. T. Coen will include this reference in his initial draft. D. McGlothlin suggested that the Committee as a whole present to the public potentially controversial issues, and J. Cicero emphasized that the Committee strive for clarity, simplicity and transparency in the Charter, in order to encourage public participation. R. Vetric and T. Coen agreed that clarity and simplicity is the

Committee's goal. R. Vetrick and M. Feller will collaborate on final edits for clarity and consistency.

J. Perry addressed the proposed draft for re-organization of the Charter. A. Maguire commented that Ch. 4 sections 1 & 2 could be moved into Ch. 5, Other Elected Officials, and that Ch. 6B re non-regulatory town boards and committees could be referenced in an appendix, and therefore more easily amended. She also suggested that this section should describe the duration and expiration of boards/committees. There was a general discussion of the fact that some boards/committees are created by State or town law. T. Coen suggested that the entire list of boards and committees, and their origins/missions, be gathered for review.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:03 pm.