

TOWN OF PROVINCETOWN
Charter Review Ad Hoc Committee
MEETING MINUTES OF
June 10, 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, Robert Speiser (both excused).

Others Present: None

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

Minutes of the May 27, 2014 meeting were reviewed.

Robert Vetrick moved to approve the meeting minutes of May 27, 2014 as amended, Thomas Coen seconded and it was so voted, 8-0-1.

The Financial Procedures Subcommittee minutes of April 29, 2014 were reviewed and accepted unanimously.

Public Statements: Kitty Cotter, a representative from the Non-Resident Tax payers Association, will let Julia Perry know of the group's meeting schedule.

Committee Timeline and Public Forums: Chair Julia Perry discussed the public forum to be held on Wednesday, June 25th at 6:00 pm in the Judge Welsh Meeting Room. To publicize the event, Julia has contacted the Banner, who may be adapting copy she will provide into an article about the forum prior to the event, and Doug Johnstone will draft a legal notice and a display ad for Julia to review prior to placement in the Banner to run in the March 19th issue. Marcy Feller will contact Far Land Provisions to arrange for light refreshments for the event. Julia is scheduled to be on the Board of Selectmen's June 23rd agenda to provide an overview of the Committee's work to date and will also invite them to consider their comments on issues related to the Charter to be discussed in a future joint meeting with the Committee proposed for late July/August. Julia will also highlight the public forum when meeting with the Selectmen. The general consensus was that the public forum should include an overview of the Charter Review Ad Hoc Committee's work to date and the function of a Town Charter. To elicit discussion, a few examples of issues the Committee has been discussing may be highlighted, but otherwise the purpose of the forum is to hear what the public has to say in regard to the Charter.

Board Response/Feedback: Doug Johnstone discussed the need to formally invite the Town Moderator into the review process. Robert Vetrick moved to authorize Chair Julia Perry to brief the Town Moderator on the Committee's work to date and issues discussed, and to invite her to a future meeting. The motion was seconded by Ann Maguire and approved unanimously.

Doug suggested that senior management staff be provided with a working draft of the revised Charter at one of their management staff meetings in late August/early September in order to solicit their input on suggested revisions and any other area of the Charter not previously addressed. The Committee agreed to include staff when a working draft of revisions has been created.

Subcommittee Reports: Doug Johnstone distributed a revised Chapter 10: Termination of Service, Section 1 based on comments from the last Committee meeting for further review by the Committee. Robert Vetrick used the Chapter revision to show how language throughout can be simplified in order to strip the document of unnecessary artifice and make it more accessible to the public. Robert agreed to simplify the language throughout the section and bring back to a future meeting so that it can be used as a guide for the Committee.

Chapter 7: Town Manager – Robert Vetrick continued the discussion from the May 27th Review Committee meeting on whether or not to keep the listings found in the current Charter, or to eliminate them entirely. There was general consensus to eliminate listings where they occur and to keep the language as simple as possible. The Committee was asked to review Robert's suggested revisions and bring their comments back to a future meeting.

Thomas Coen distributed a survey of Cape Cod towns showing the dates of their Annual Town Meetings, Annual Elections, and closing of the warrants for town meetings in order to highlight the short time frame of the closing of the town meeting warrant and first night of town meeting in Provincetown as compared to other towns on the Cape. A discussion of the need to increase the time between the close of the warrant and the start of Town Meeting ensued. The discussion also included the possibility of moving the date of Town Meeting and the Annual Town Election.

Chapter 2: Town Meetings and Elections – Julia suggested this Chapter be reviewed by Doug Johnstone, Thomas Coen, and herself, but also invited other Committee members who may be interested. Judith Cicero asked to also be on the Subcommittee. It was agreed that a determination of the timing of the closing of the warrant, the date of Town Meeting and the Annual Town Election would be a significant factor in revising this Chapter.

NEXT MEETING: The next meeting will take place on June 24, 2014, at 5:00 P.M.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 6:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Doug Johnstone