

## CHARTER COMMISSION FOR THE TOWN OF PROVINCETOWN

Minutes for May 15, 2017

Meeting held in the Auditorium, Town Hall

Present: Judith Cicero, Tom Coen, Michelle Crone-DeMarco, Marcy Feller, Steve Katsurinis, Julia Perry, Robert Speiser, Robert Vetrick, Elizabeth Williams

The Meeting was called to order by the Chair at 12:10 pm. The purpose of the Meeting was to conduct a Roundtable with representatives of the Town Boards. The following Boards were represented:

- Bicycle Committee
- Board of Health
- Cultural Council
- Disability Commission
- Historical Commission
- Pier Corporation
- Public Landscape Committee (formerly the Beautification Committee)
- Scholarship and Trust Administration Committee
- School Committee

The following questions were presented to the group by the Moderator and discussed:

How do we fill current and future vacancies? How do we fill future vacancies as people step down?

One option is to abolish term limits. Do we do that for all Boards or only for non-regulatory Boards? Is it balanced by:

- creating term limits for serving as Chair; and
- giving the Appointing Authority the right to remove appointed members who are obstructive?

Need to enforce removal for multiple unexcused absences.

One option is to allow residents who are not registered voters in Provincetown to serve on appointed Boards. Do we need to insure that they are not the majority? Should they be allowed to participate in discussions but not vote; maybe serve as alternates that can count toward quorum. Some Boards (such as Public Landscape) have options for volunteers to serve the Board.

One option is to merge Boards with related responsibilities:

- Open Space and Conservation
- Recreation and Bicycle
- Historical and Art

Need to make sure their responsibilities are related. Example: Disability and COA serve different segments of the population with some overlap.

Other points appear in the rough notes kept during the Meeting by Tom Coen, which are attached.

The Meeting was adjourned at 2:00.

Next meeting scheduled for noon on Monday, May 22, 2017.

### **Question 1: How to fill Committee vacancies?**

- No non-residents
- Snowbirds?
- Skype / technology
- Need physical presence
- Welcome non-resident participation – non voting
- Town Hall open later on Fridays
- Televisе live and make it interactive
- Board of Selectmen should not attack / remove members
- Stipend for volunteer committee members
- Non-voting Positions
- Change (State) law to allow a quorum by phone (in small towns)
- More alternates
- Board specific rules for non-full-time residents
- Form group to encourage participation

### **Question 2: Abolish term limits?**

- Limits ridiculous
- Keep (limits) for regulatory boards
- Good to get fresh eyes
- Finance Committee (members) appointment by multi-member body
- More diversity
- (automatically) Remove (members) after 3 unexcused (absences)
- Change above to unless excused by the Chair
- (Establish a) limit on the number of excused absences
- Board (itself) to make recommendations to fill vacancies

### **Question 3: Abolish term limits for all committees or for non-regulatory committees?**

- No for non-regulatory

- Unlimited for non-regulatory – appointment authority does not have to re-appoint
- Yes, for limits on chairs, not on other members
- Succession planning (is important)
- Non-residents: public participation welcome; they only show up if against
- Volunteer options (e.g. Beautification Committee)
- How to “plug in” non-residents.
  - quorum of residents
  - non-residents as expert / advisor
  - majority of board members (quorum) must be residents
- Allow non-members to participate in discussion
- Allow non-residents in some capacity
- If they’re here, let them participate
- Reality check
- Outreach to other boards not present, e.g. Planning Board, Provincetown 400
- Not Meeting at 12:00 pm on Monday
- Need to meet with other boards; take on the road
- Good reason for structured agenda
- Residency not good indicator of interest
- Property ownership does not give same rights as residency
- Public comment on each agenda item
- Need BoS to reach out to committees to encourage participation
- Need guidelines & tools for running meetings
- Removal of Committee members by appointing authority

**Question 4: Merge boards – process, interest, workload, logistics?**

- Charter Commission proposing process that would allow appointing authorities to merge non-regulatory boards