

Charter Commission Meeting 9/8/04

Present Herlihy, Pratt, Eldridge, Karlin, Clark, Irvin

Called to order at 7:07 p.m. by Chairman Eldridge.

Motion to submit minutes within 90 days of meetings, approved unanimously.

Motion to have agendas available 48 h before meetings approved unanimously.

Motion to accept amended minutes of 7/14 and 7/28 approved unanimously.

Motion to approve amended minutes of 8/25 approved unanimously.

Short discussion about how to encourage public attendance. Questions the charter commission might consider: Should we have open town meeting, representative town meeting or a council? Should the powers and duties of the chief administrative officer be expanded? Which positions and boards should be elected and which appointed?

Motion to communicate these questions to the press approved unanimously

Review of progress in connecting with committees. Connecting occurring.

Question of what the budget process is? Commission will seek input from Town Officials about budget process as needed.

Review of charters. Irvin: Orleans: Town Administrator has some appointing authority. Some elected boards. Grafton: Town manager reverse approvals seemed interesting. Clark: concise is nice and Ashland can be worked. Table of contents. Preamble in Bellingham. Definitions. (Mashpee) Require that Town Officials be at the entire Town Meeting. Resolution of policy conflicts: appeal to Board of Selectmen (Bellingham) Excessive absence section. Karlin: short is nice. No recall, Nice preamble in Ashland. Pratt: similar to present government to get passed. Alternates good idea. 3 y elected terms for Clerk and Moderator. Attendance requirements. Herlihy: Grafton's language too verbose. Start with Ashland and add. Need to discuss quorum requirements. Town manager appointing day to day workers. Maintain balance of power with many elected. Much attention to recall procedure. Term of office for Town Manager. ?residency requirement. ?Qualifications for a professional position. ?CFO. Eldridge: Grafton, Bourne and Bellingham: Detailed Table of Contents, Introduction. Changes made, availability of Town Officials at Town Meeting. Focus on budget process. If we decide on recall focus on percentage. Liked Bellingham who appoints whom, the duties of the officers. Minority report.

Adjourned at 9 PM