

Charter Commission  
Minutes of May 25, 2005 Meeting

Called to order at 6:55 pm. Marie Eldridge presiding. Present McRobert , Clark, Herlihy, Pratt.

Discussion of Article 7- General Provisions which were submitted by Beth:

Section 7-1 thru 7-5 – no changes

Section 7-6 (a) Change appointments for Charter Review to:

- BOS – 2
- School Committee – 2
- Planning Board – 2
- Finance Committee – 2
- Moderator – 1

7:13 – Dr. Karlin enters meeting

Section 7-6 (b) delete section (b) on by-law review. Group decided that this should be done continuously as by-laws are added, amended etc. Add new section (b) – any new bylaws adopted by the town must be in compliance with the charter.

Section 7-7 Add “Excluding the Town Manager, “ to the beginning of sentence 1. Delete reference to “ subject to civil service law.” Delete “good” (change to “for cause.”) Also delete last sentence of paragraph 1.

Section 7-9 Notice of vacancies – delete reference to civil service and add 2 – language for appointed boards.

Move Section 7 as amended – unanimously approved.

Article 8 – Transitional Provisions submitted by Marie.

Section 8-3 – delete section highlighted in bold.

Section 8-5 (a) delete last sentence and change to “The Town Counsel shall review the report prior to Town Meeting.”

Section 8-5 (b) Change search committee to:

- BOS – 1
- Finance - 1
- School Committee – 1
- Personnel – 1
- Charter Commission – 2
- Moderator – 2

Add Section 8-5 (d) - Establishment of Search Committee there is a vacancy in Town Manager’s position – earlier provision requiring two members of Charter Commission to

serve is void. Committee shall remain at seven (7) members – but substitute: two (2) chosen by Town Moderator, one (1) chosen by Town Clerk.

Charter – page 7 Section 3-1 (f) filling of vacancies. Delete two paragraphs lettered (g) and (2) and replace entire section with wording from the Grafton Charter – page 20 Section 3 – 1 (f) sections (1), (2) and (3.)

Discussion of June meeting schedule. Plan is to meet weekly – possibly every Wednesday night. Marie will send out e-mail asking for members to submit their conflicts with these dates and also to submit alternative dates. Nancy presented her points regarding the recall provision. Discussion followed. Nancy will look for samples of language on grounds for recall. Marie will contact Marilyn Contreas for more guidance on this section.

Questions were solicited from public:

Chris Dietz stated that she thought that the Charter had included wording on grounds for recall. It was explained that currently there is no wording in the Charter limiting the grounds.

Discussion of e-mail from Andy Branz. Concluded that although these are valid concerns it is the opinion of the Commission that they should be addressed by the School Board and not in the Charter.

Nancy asked board to reconsider decision to leave elected board sizes at the status quo. She would like to see all three member boards changed to five. Discussion ensued. Marie asked everyone to give this some thought and be prepared to discuss at one of the June meetings.

Marie gave guidance regarding how to record votes in the minutes that are not unanimous. All split votes taken must be recorded by name and also that no one voting "no" on any vote can request reconsideration of said vote. Motion to reconsider must be made by a "yes" voter.

We also agreed to attempt to vote items important items such as the recall and board member size when all members are present (with the exception of Doris who is on an extended absence.)

Meeting adjourned at 9:25