



TOWN COUNCIL
Charter Review Committee
Selectmen's Conference Room

Thursday April 16, 2015
MEETING MINUTES

Vice President Ann Canedy
Councillor Jennifer Cullum **Chair**
Councillor Will Crocker Jr.
Councillor Frederick Chirigotis **Vice Chair**
Councillor Paul Hebert

I. BUSINESS

A. Roll Call:

Members present: Vice President Ann Canedy, Councilor Frederick Chirigotis, Councilor Will Crocker Jr., Councilor Paul Hebert, **Also present:** Jessica Rapp Grasseti, President, Town Council, Acting Administrator Cynthia A. Lovell. Councilor Jennifer Cullum arrived at 6:30.

Vice Chair of the Committee asked for Public Comment, seeing none, the Committee moved onto the Business of the day. The Committee has agreed to gather information on the past committee that was formed. Vice President Canedy said she had information from the last committee that she will provide to the Committee.

Councilor Hebert wanted to make sure that we could go ahead with the other business at hand if we did not have any information to the first order of business. Vice Chair Fred Chirigotis said we are able to address anything on the Agenda so long as it is listed. Councilor Hebert thanked the Chair.

The Committee looked at the next topic of discussion which is citizen involvement on this Committee. Vice Committee Chair Fred Chirigotis said he has had conversations with the Chair of the Committee to the relevance of citizen's on this committee and he felt that this should be a committee of just the Town Councilors right now, he welcomes public comment at any meeting and that's the reason for public comment, not to say that in the future there may be an opportunity to expand to the citizen's but for tight now he feels that the Town Council members membership was all that was required right now. Vice President Canedy echoed the same, most of the topics this committee is going to handle is procedural, and not sure what the citizen's would have for in put on procedure changes.

Vice President Canedy would like to form a list of items that this committee needs to address. There were a lot of topics that were talked about. For example term limits, Charter objections, and so forth. There was a lot of discussion of term limits. In one section of the Charter is says 12 years, and then in another area is 3 terms and 4 years so there is some confusion that needs clarification.

Councilor Hebert wanted to make sure that the Chair and Co-Chair should also mention to the general public in the Town Council meeting that this committee exists, and we welcome any public comment and encourage the public to come. Committee agreed.

Chair of Committee Councilor Jen Cullum also wanted to mention that an area that she had concern about in the Charter was an area that relates to convicted felons and if they can or can not serve on a Board/Committee/Commission. Vice Chair of the Committee Councilor Frederick Chirigotis mentioned we as a town do not do any Cori checks on individuals that apply to a Board/Committee/Commission. Vice Chair of Committee would eventually like the Appointments Committee to do Cori checks on the individuals that apply for our Boards/ Committees/ Commissions. Chair of Committee said she had a Cori check done on her as part of the Youth Commission, but she believes that is the only department that does these is the School department.

Vice Chair also mentioned that the Cori check is also only state wide, so if you have a record in another state, we in Mass may never know about time served or a prior record in another state. Chair of committee would like the town's legal department about the boundaries and how far we can go with this in the Charter.

President of the Town Council suggested that the committee take the current charter which has the amended date, and you can kind of go from there as to when these changes were made.

Attorney Ruth Weil said that there office started going through the changes that were made back when there was a Charter change, and I can provide this committee with this information if you want. Vice President Canedy thought it was very helpful to have this information provided to us so they can see where the prior Council was thinking.

Councilor Chirigotis also mentioned about the other Committee looking at the Charter as well with the section that deals with the Town Manager job description. Vice President Canedy said that we as this committee gets close to that section we should have a joint meeting with them with respect to this section.

Chair of Committee asked to compile a list of items for this committee to look at. The committee comprised the following:

1. Term limits
2. Airport Management
3. Primaries (should we have them or not)
4. 10 year or 5 year forecasts
5. Town Collector (should they be an elected position)
6. Charter Objectives

Chair of Committee suggested that this committee pick three sections that need tightening, and work on those for the next meeting, another suggestion would be to read the Charter and look at other areas outside of the three this Committee chooses.

The three areas that drew interest to this Committee are the following

1. Recall procedure (changed in 2009)
2. Term limits
3. 5 or 10 year forecast

Councilor Hebert asked if we have the ability to sanction at all. Chair of Committee, Councilor Cullum said we do not even have standards. We have no professional standards for any of our elected officials, we are in the position to lead this town, and we should have to meet some accountability. This is one of the reasons I did not vote for a raise for the Town Council members because we are not held to a standard, but we as professionals should be accountable year after year and do something, if we are on a Board / Committee/ Commission then choose a subject matter that you are compassionate about and do something to better the cause. There should be attendance standards, commitment standards and so on. Councilor Chirigotis asked if there was anything in the Charter currently that has a standard measure of ability.

Councilor Hebert stated that currently the only standard currently to run for office is you have to be a resident of the Town of Barnstable. But we need to be careful as to limiting our field of choice for others to run, if you have a single mother who does not have daycare to make meetings, or limited funds if your car breaks down, or whatever the scenario may be, should we limit and discriminate against those individuals. Chair of the Committee said maybe you set two salaries, one that is the minimum salary for being a Councilor, and then a second salary that is set for those that are really involved and make things happen and attend all meetings and are out in the Community. Is there a legal standard we should be looking at that is across the board, or does it have to be in the Charter? Councilor Chirigotis says it's the people that elect us so it's up to the people for setting the standards, Chair of Committee said she has a problem with some of the Councilors are out there everyday doing everything for their precincts and other councilors who just attend two meetings a month.

Citizen of the Town requirement, can we further elaborate on the definition, what does it say? Attorney Ruth Weil said where you domicile. It is an on going issue even at the legislative branch.

Councilor Hebert said that if you are going to run for an office to represent your precinct, then you should be attending 80% of the meetings. Chair of Committee asked if we should put an attendance clause in the Charter.

Attorney Ruth Weil said the Town Council Rules would also be helpful to this Committee.

Next meeting will discuss the list above, as well as Article 4.

NEXT MEETING: May 21, 2015 5:30pm

ADJOURNED AT: 6:45