

## Charter Commission Meeting Minutes

October 17, 2023

Board of Selectmen present: Dwayne Woodsome, Dennis Abbott, Gary Fecteau and Jon Bell.

Charter Commission members present: Marina Gagne, Nancy Brandt, Nadine Molloy, Lori Anthony and David Barker. Absent: Frank Allen, Steve Ross, Deborah Wentworth.

Planning/CEO present: Angela Chute.

Angela Chute brought in what Lee Jay Fieldman suggested for amendments to section 603 in the charter. Asking for seven voting members. (Attached)

Matt Bors suggested Article 1 and Article 2 needs to be reworded and changes reflected throughout the charter. Article 3 need to take out newspapers as a method of communications. Struggle with committees, committees review things for a long time and if Board rep. can be considered part of the committees. 1 member on conservation and 1 on EDC make sense to have the selectmen rep as a working member of the committee their representing.

Dennis Abbott elections need to be changed. For example absentee ballots. Matt Bors added section 3.03 and 3.05. Marina Gagne feels should follow state laws. Matt Bors also added Section 11.07 language should be amended. Marina Gagne could have been both charter commission to be established and elect members at the same time. Dennis Abbott felt could be as simple as in accordance with state law might cover some areas especially elections.

Dennis Abbot suggested have to be an agreement among the charter members if agree with current town structure. Question is the current process working or should be a 5 or 7 member council and would do budget but TA is actual a Manager. Marina Gagne if going to look into the future should be looked at. Would have more leeway on budget. Matt Bors can relinquish and give certain duties to the council to fit the town. Dennis Abbott questioned when do you make that move to council. Elected as at large council. Dennis Abbott added all sort of changes that will need to be done. Town Attorney has some changes. Need town attorney to review. Town Administrator changes to Town Manager. Section 403 needs to change to a contract, salary has to be approved and call 1, 2, or 3 year contract. Matt Bors does not feel anyone would apply for 1 year. Marina Gagne most are 3 year contract. Appointed boards, Budget, Planning and Zoning, Selectmen suggest not getting to cumbersome listing all committee. Suggest streamline section 6, keep created by the board. Remove in 604 "The Road Commissioner shall serve in that capacity until his term expires." Matt Bors added hard to get volunteers and Marina Gagne need to look into the future. Dennis could have flexibility if two council members can be on committees. Some towns have elected budget committee members, not sure if that is the way to go. Marina Gagne should have a personnel committee that wouldn't be a bad idea. Dennis Abbott suggests limiting how many committees are formed by the charter.

Nancy Brandt asked the question on if Town Administrator or Manager should also be Town Clerk, Tax Collector, and General Assistance Administrator or should be removed from charter. Matt Bors and Selectmen are in agreement should be removed. Also asked if charter should be gender neutral, Board felt talk to town atty. Nancy Brandt also added when it comes time, the commission might ask Matt Bors in to see how Town Administrator, Treasurer and Finance Director intertwines.

Workshop adjourn at 7: 54