

Charter Review Committee Meeting Minutes
January 23 at 7:00PM
Room A15, Longmeadow High School Administrative Building
Approved as corrected at the February 14, 2018 meeting

Attendees: Tass Angelides, Liz Bone, Peter Landon, David Martel, Arlene Miller, Gerry Nolet, and Larry Starr.

Chairman Martel called the meeting to order at 7:05PM.

- A. Public Comment: There were no comments offered by the public.
- B. Approval of minutes from the last meeting: Mr. Landon moved and Mr. Starr seconded a motion to accept the minutes from the January 18, 2018 meeting as corrected. The motion passed unanimously.
- C. Discussion: The Chair acknowledged that the committee received a request in writing from the “energy task force” to consider adding language to the Charter which established an “energy and sustainability committee”. Mr. Martel suggested and all agreed that we should hold on to the request and consider it at a later time during our review process.

Mr. Martel reported to the committee on issues related to directives in the Open Meeting Law related to “posting” and “bulletin Boards”. (the location of posting must be open 24/7) By adding the word ”website” to our posting locations, we are adequately fulfilling that mandate.

The Committee continued its page-by-page review of the Charter:

Article 3:

- a. 3-1b: The committee confirmed its suggestion from the previous meeting to add any “individual registered to vote in Longmeadow” shall be eligible to.... This was accepted by consensus.
- b. 3-2b: It was agreed by consensus to replace all references in the Charter of “Boards of Selectmen” to “Select Board or Boards”.
- c. 3-3c: It was agreed to add “annually evaluate” so it reads “fix their compensation, define their duties and annual evaluate”. This was agreed to by consensus.
- d. 3-4: No suggestions were made in this section.
- e. 3-5: No changes were offered in this section.

Article 4:

- a. 4-3: The committee contemplated if it were legal to add the idea that the assistant assessor would be appointed by the Town Manager. Mr. Martel offered that he had provided an opinion on this matter when he was Longmeadow’s Town Council. He felt that the MGL does not give the authority to appoint the assistant assessor to the Town Manager. Mr. Martel will discuss this further with Mr. Crane and acknowledge that the committee would like to clarify this in the Charter and have the Town Manager be the appointing authority.
- b. 4-4: All agreed that we should add a section about the appointment of the Capital Planning Committee somewhere in the Charter. We also agreed to add the following to Section 4-4: “The identity and purpose of such other committees shall be listed in the office of the Town Manager.”

D. Other Business:

- a. Mr. Martel agreed to send language for review about where other boards and committees should be discussed/listed.
- b. All agreed that we would continue our review at the next meeting, finishing Article 4 and working through Articles 5 and 6.
- c. The next meeting is scheduled for February 14, 2018 at a location to be determined

The meeting was adjourned at 8:35PM.

Respectfully submitted by Arlene C. Miller