

**Charter Review Committee Meeting Minutes
February 28, 2023 at 7:00**

TOWN CLERK, ROCKLAND
APR 19 '23 AM 9:29

Present:

Committee Members: Doug Cope, John Ellard, Judy Hartigan, Karen Ripley, Maureen Shorrocks, Pat Foley, Rich Penny, Robyn Day, Vivian Anastasi
Douglas Lapp (Town Administrator)
John Clifford (Town Counsel)
Jim Tarr (UMass Boston Collins Center), Anthony Wilson (UMass Boston Collins Center)

Mr. Penny reads last meeting's minutes. Mr. Penny motions to approve meeting minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

John Lucas speaks to Committee to request adding language in the charter for an alternate member to the Planning Board, to cover the event of an absentee or conflict of interest with a current member.

Zoning Board already has similar language in the charter.

Mr. Clifford confirms there is no prohibition on the matter.

Ms. Ripley asks if this can be done for all boards, group decides it should be on a case by case basis.

Select Person Lori Childs speaks to Committee to request language change in charter to be more neutral.

Suggesting "Board of Selectman" be changed to "Select Board", and group discussion on changing "Selectmen" to "Board Members".

Ms. Hartigan suggests a soft opening of the Charter Review Committee to the public.

Mr. Penny motions to approve adding language of alternate member to the Planning Board. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Penny motions to approve changing language regarding the "Board of Selectmen" to a more neutral language. The motion passed unanimously.

Group discussion on whether the two Charter Boards (Charter Maintenance Committee and the Charter Review Committee) should be combined into one board, and adjusting the terms.

John Clifford suggests starting with asking the Board of Selectmen to extend the Charter Review Committee by one year at next Town Meeting. All agree. Mr. Lapp notes.

Group discussion on appointed officials/employees vs elected officials/employees, reporting structure, hiring and firing authority, more inclusion of Human Resources, and the role of the Board of Selectman in the hiring process.

Anthony Wilson reminds the Committee what we decide now has to work for the long term.

Mr. Cope inquires how we should proceed going forward (by article or by subject).

Mr. Penny suggests open conversation that streamlines into topics.

Mr. Penny and Jim Tarr open discussion on the possibility of consolidating departments, and ask to compare other towns' department structures.

Meeting adjourns at 8:55pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Ripley