

Charter Review Committee 2023 Annual Town Meeting

May 13, 2023

Agenda

- Meet the committee
- Charter vs bylaw vs policy
- Our task
- Why we are here

Charter Review Committee

- Appointed by Town Moderators
- Formed September 2022
 - Debbie Woods – Chair
 - Dave Walrath – Vice Chair
 - Kathy Konno – Secretary
 - Karen Meyer
 - Kathy Sferra

What's What

- Charter
 - Defines form of government
 - Establishes & limits
 - Our constitution
- Bylaw
 - Local laws & responsibilities
- Policy
 - Rules and regulations
 - Guidelines to conduct business

Our Task

- Perform 10 year review
- Simplify, legal, consistent, reflect today
- Gathered & reviewed comments
- Set aside
 - Duplicates
 - Inconsistent with MGL
- Propose changes
- Best serves our town

Today's Process

- Brief overview of the 5 articles
- For each article
 - Present the change
 - Town Meeting comments
 - Vote on the article
- For each accepted article
 - Reviewed by Attorney General
 - On 2024 town ballot

Article 56 - Change of Selectmen to Select Board

- Change Selectmen references
- Per vote of 2021 town meeting
- Changes throughout Charter
- Discussion
- Vote

Article 57 – Citizen Petition & Representation at Town Meeting

- Section 2-7: Citizen and other petition submission
 - Recommended by citizens
 - Consistent with other boards & committees
- Section 2-8 Town Official availability
 - Recommend by Boards/Town Administrator
- Discussion
- Vote

Article 58 – Regional School Committees & Vacancy Clarification

- Section 3-1 General Provisions
- C- Term commencement
 - In conjunction with Regional Agreement
- F 2 –filling vacancies
 - Follow G.L. c. 41, §11
- Section 3-3 School Committee
 - Multiple school committees
- Discussion
- Vote

Article 59 – Board of Assessors elected to appointed

- Section 3-8 Board of Assessors
- Change from elected to appointed board
- Trouble filling board
- Recommended by Chief Assessor and Town Administrator
- Powers and duties remain unchanged
- Discussion
- Vote

Article 60 – Gender neutral

- Section 7-4
- Simplification
- Gender neutral
- Reflects today's environment
- Discussion
- Vote

Thank you
and
See you in the Fall