

Charter Review Committee 2023 Special Town Meeting

September 18, 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

Tonight's Process

- For each of the 11 articles
 - Overview of the change
 - Discussion
 - Vote
- For each accepted article
 - Reviewed by Attorney General
 - On 2024 town ballot

Article 4 – Town Moderator

- Sections 2-2; 2-10 & 3-5
- Clarify
 - Process to select a Deputy Moderator
 - Town Moderator's appointments.
- Discussion
- Vote

Article 5 – Investigations

- Section 3-2(e)
- Updates and modernizes the investigation process
 - Consistent with state law
 - Investigation remains
 - SB complies with OML
 - Eliminate requirement to publish in annual report
- Discussion
- Vote

Article 6 – Town Administrator

- Section 4-1; Section 4-2(h): Section 4-4; Section 4-6
- Provides
 - SB flexibility designating Acting Town Administrator
 - More practical time limits for appointing Town Administrator
- Discussion
- Vote

Article 7 – Master Plan

- Section 3-2 (b); Section 3-6; Section 4-2 (s); Section 7-7
- Follow G.L. c. 41, §81d
- Revises
 - Committee membership
 - Appointment process
- Discussion
- Vote

Article 8 – Removals and Suspensions

- Section 5-4
- Clarifies
 - Relevant to appointed, not elected officials.
 - Notice of Intent sent certified mail
 - Town will comply with applicable law
 - Public hearing requirement removed.
- Discussion
- Vote

Article 9 – Town Administrative Organization

- Dependent on Article 3 status
- Section 5-5
- Updates list of Select Board appointments
- Discussion
- Vote

Article 10 – Multi Member Body

- Section 7-8
- Made consistent with current open meeting law
- Refer to existing law
- Affirmative votes of the majority of those present;
- Clarify boards appoint associate members and subcommittees
- Annual board reorganization
- Discussion
- Vote

Article 11 – Recall Elections

- Section 3-2 (g)
- Modernize and clarify
 - Elected official recall process
 - Additional verification & notification time
- Discussion
- Vote

Article 12 – General Provisions

- Section 7-5 Definitions
- Clarify the definition of the “town bulletin board”
- Typographical error
- Clarify the definition of “master plan”
- Alternative use of the term “comprehensive plan”
- Discussion
- Vote

Article 13 – Administrative

- Section 5-1; Section 6-2; Section 6-5; Section 6-6
- Removes newspaper publishing requirement
 - School Budget
 - Town Budget
 - Reorg of town agencies
- Additional time for budget
 - School
 - State aid
- Discussion
- Vote

Article 14 – Vested Authority

- Dependent on passage of Article 3
- Section 5-5
- Title clarification
- Discussion
- Vote

Thank you