

**TOWN OF PROVINCETOWN**  
**Charter Review Ad Hoc Committee**  
**MEETING MINUTES OF**  
**March 4, 2014**

**MEETING HELD IN THE CAUCUS HALL MEETING ROOM**

**Members Present:** Judith Cicero, Thomas Coen, Marcy Feller, Doug Johnstone, Julia Perry, Robert Speiser, Robert Vetrick.

**Members Absent:** Ann Maguire (excused), David McGlothlin (excused), Mark Phillips (excused), Elizabeth Williams (excused).

**Others Present:** None

Chair Julia Perry called the meeting to order at 5:00 pm.

Minutes of the February 4, 2014 meeting were reviewed.

*Robert Vetrick moved to approve the meeting minutes of February 4, 2014, Marcy Feller seconded and it was so voted, 7-0-0.*

**Public Statements:** None.

Thomas Coen attended the Non-Resident Taxpayer Association meeting held on Saturday, February 15<sup>th</sup> and informed them about where the Review Committee is in the process. He added that they were interested in a right to speak at Town Meeting, rather than in having an actual vote. Chair Julia Perry mentioned that both she and Doug Johnstone, in his capacity as Town Clerk, met with John-Paul Bianchi, a member of the Association, on February 11<sup>th</sup> and discussed committee membership and having a voice in Town Meeting matters, among other issues.

The committee continued to discuss the role of subcommittees and how they relate to the Open Meeting Law and the work of the Charter Review Committee in an effort to maintain compliance with the Open Meeting Law when performing committee work in the future.

**Committee Timeline:** Chair Julia Perry extended the timeline in certain areas to account for this winter's weather and associated cancelled meetings, and the timeline will be updated on the Town website accordingly.

**Committee Assignments:** The committee assignments listing was finalized and Doug Johnstone will post the committee assignment list to the Charter Review Ad Hoc Committee page on the Town website.

**Committee Budget:** Doug Johnstone reported that the committee budget for the current fiscal year will be included in a budget transfer item on the April 2014 Special Town Meeting warrant, and for FY2015 is included in the Selectmen's budget in the 2014 Annual Town Meeting warrant.

**Board Response/Feedback:** Chair Julia Perry provided a brief update on responses received to date, and while said she would like to see more input, she is pleased with the response so far.

Thomas Coen reported that the issue of a residency requirement for certain management staff was discussed in a joint meeting of the Board of Selectmen and the Finance Committee recently, with Acting Town Manager David Gardner reporting that no other town on the Cape has a residency requirement for management staff.

Julia Perry distributed drafts of a revised Chapter 8 that she had produced in response to feedback provided by Acting Police chief Jim Golden. Julia asked that members review and bring comments back to the next meeting on March 18<sup>th</sup>.

**Discussion of the Charter continuing with discussion of Chapter 10, Section 3:** Robert Speiser suggested moving entire section to Town Manager section elsewhere in the Charter.

**10-3-4** Marcy Feller – Is the Town Manager paid while suspended? If this is discretionary, then at who's discretion? Questioned if this is a Charter question or solely a contract issue.

**10-3-11** Thomas Coen – Suggested changing term “free cash” to the term “available budgets.”

#### **Chapter 10, Section 4**

Discussion of contracted employees and removal for malfeasance. General consensus that Section 4 was cumbersome and could be rewritten and/or clarified.

**Next Steps:** Chair Julia Perry has a list of comments made throughout the initial review process and will create a task list assigning specific committee members to certain areas of the Charter for further research and will discuss this assignment listing at the next meeting.

The Committee will review a first draft reorganization of the Charter as a whole.

**NEXT MEETING:** The next meeting will take place on March 18, 2014 at 5:00 P.M.

**ADJOURNMENT:** *Robert Vetrick moved to adjourn at 6:15 P.M. and it was so voted unanimously.*

Respectfully submitted,  
Doug Johnstone