

TOWN OF PROVINCETOWN
Charter Review Ad Hoc Committee
MEETING MINUTES OF
April 29, 2014

MEETING HELD IN THE CAUCUS HALL MEETING ROOM

Members Present: Thomas Coen, Marcy Feller, Doug Johnstone, Ann Maguire, Julia Perry, Mark Phillips, Robert Speiser (arrived 5:35 pm), Robert Vetrick, Elizabeth Williams.

Members Absent: Judith Cicero (excused), David McGlothlin (excused).

Others Present: None

Chair Julia Perry called the meeting to order at 5:00 pm and asked the Committee to join her in wishing Robert Vetrick a happy birthday.

Minutes of the April 15, 2014 meeting were reviewed.

Ann Maguire moved to approve the meeting minutes of April 15, 2014, Mark Phillips seconded and it was so voted, 7-0-1.

Robert Vetrick used the Minutes as an example to address style questions in relation to a standard to be used in a draft of the revised Charter.

Public Statements: None.

Committee Timeline and Public Forums: There was a discussion of the format for the public forum to be held at the COA on Wednesday, May 21 at 1:00 pm. Ann Maguire suggested a less formal presentation, more a conversation than a lecture, simply relaying the function of the Charter and inviting comments on what they would like to see in the Charter. Thomas Coen suggested dividing the Charter into themes that could be presented and discussed, such as defining the Board of Selectmen and their role, etc. Doug Johnstone suggested having a flip chart at the ready should it be needed, and the importance of recording their thoughts as expressed rather than interpreting their statements. Julia asked for those committee members who plan to attend the COA public forum to let her know at the next scheduled Charter Review meeting on May 13th and will finalize details of the public forum at that time as well.

Julia Perry discussed possibilities for a June Public Forum, including dates, meeting space and logistics. Continued discussion and forum details to be added to the May 13th agenda.

Board Response/Feedback: Chair Julia Perry said that she had received a response for input from the Board of Health.

Thomas Coen distributed the legislation that created the Provincetown Public Pier Corporation highlighting the clause that specifies this entity is to be separate from the town, and therefore should not be included in a revised Charter.

Julia Perry confirmed that David McGlothlin agreed to work on the preamble and bring his work to a future Charter Review Meeting.

Marcy Feller will review past meeting minutes to confirm which sections of the Charter she may have previously agreed to review that were not specified in the April 15th minutes concerning Charter review assignments. In further discussion Marcy agreed to join the Chapter 3 review group, and Doug Johnstone removed himself from Chapter 3 to review Chapter 2.

Subcommittee Reports: Chapter 4 Subcommittee met and reviewed past comments and compared section with relevant sections from the Truro Charter, with review work continuing.

Chapter 5: Julia Perry suggested dividing the Chapter by sections and assigning members by section as follows:

Section 1: Town Moderator/Marcy Feller

Section 2: Charter Enforcement Commission/Julia Perry

Section 3: Housing authority/Ann Maguire & Elizabeth Williams

Section 5: School Committee/Possibly David McGlothlin

The remaining sections in Chapter 5 have yet to be assigned.

Robert Speiser joined the meeting at 5:35 pm.

Julia Perry mentioned that aspects of the General By-laws that pertain to the Charter should be reviewed and moved to the Charter where necessary.

Robert Speiser discussed his proposed standard formatting for the Committee descriptions in Chapter 6.

Chapter 7 Subcommittee: Robert Vetric discussed how to better organize the Chapter, and the use of active versus passive voice (in this Chapter and throughout the Charter). General consensus was to use active voice for clarity.

Chapter 9 Subcommittee: Tom Coen and Mark Phillips met with both the Finance Director and Acting Town Manager and briefly mentioned some ideas they discussed, including:

- Establishing Capital Improvements Committee;
- Address date and timing issues in relation to Town Meeting, including the actual date of Town Meeting and closing the Town Meeting warrant 45 -60 days before, as opposed to 30 days.

The chapter 9 subcommittee will continue to meet and provide updates in future meetings.

NEXT MEETING: The next meeting will take place on May 13, 2014, at 5:00 P.M.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 6:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Doug Johnstone