

CHARTER COMMISSION FOR THE TOWN OF PROVINCETOWN

Minutes for June 5, 2017

Meeting held in the Judge Welsh Meeting Room, Town Hall

Present: Judith Cicero, Tom Coen, Michelle Crone-DeMarco, Marcy Feller, Julia Perry, Robert Speiser, Robert Vetrick, Elizabeth Williams

Absent Excused: Steve Katsurinis

The Meeting was called to order by the Chair at 1:00 pm.

1. Public Statements - none.
2. The Commission discussed the Special Meeting scheduled for June 19 and whether the issues it raises reflect on requirements in the Charter:
 - a. Should there be a moratorium in the Charter (six months?) on matters decided at Town Meeting?
 - b. Should the number of citizen signatures required to call a Special Meeting/add an item to a Special Meeting called by the Board of Selectmen - currently 200 versus 100 - be changed? (Set by State law.)
 - c. Should be distinction between reconsideration (limited to one hour after a vote at Town Meeting) and rescission (no limit) be clarified?
 - d. Should there be a clarification in the Charter regarding the process by which the Board of Selectmen determines the need to call for an eminent domain taking?
3. The Commission discussed the Chair's meeting with the Chair of the Board of Selectmen on May 25 - specifically the reluctance of the Chair of the Board of Selectmen to eliminate term limits. The Commission proposed allowing the Appointing Authority to waive term limits when the circumstances justify it (such as the lack of available Board members or the experience/expertise of an individual).
4. The Commission discussed their upcoming presentation to the Board of Selectmen scheduled for June 12 and what issues they wanted to focus on:
 - a. The Financial Timeline and the impact on the proposed Financial Timeline of the vote at Town Meeting to reject moving the date of the Annual Town Meeting.
 - b. The proposed process to remove an Appointed Official - allowing the Appointed Official the right to decide if the Hearing should be public or private; and eliminating the right of appeal to the Personnel Committee.
 - c. The reason why the Commission feels that the Personnel Committee is inadequate to advise the Town on personnel requirements in the law -

including ADA and sexual harassment laws - and the need for an H.R. person to advise the Town.

- d. The potential role of Part-Time Residents on the Town Boards.
- e. The appointment of the Finance Committee. The Commission is still concerned with requiring the Moderator to act alone and, at a minimum, would require consultation by any Appointing Authority with the Chair of that Board.
- f. Whether an Ombudsperson position should be created to expedite and clarify processes in Town Hall for an inquiring resident.

(The Meeting with the Board of Selectmen was cancelled by the Board of Selectmen later the same day.)

5. The Commission members agreed on the suggestion of the Chair to switch responsibilities regarding the individual Chapters to allow for a fresh look. The new assignments are:

- o Tom Coen - Town Meeting
- o Judith Cicero - Emergency Procedures
- o Betty Williams - Town Manager
- o Robert Speiser - Board of Selectmen
- o Julia Perry - Town Boards
- o Marcy Feller - Financial Timeline
- o Michelle Crone - Chapters 1 and 2 of the 6/5/17 version - focusing on the role of the Charter Enforcement
- o Robert Vetrick - an overall read for consistency

6. The Commission continued discussion of the issue of remote participation - which currently does not count toward quorum.

7. The Commission approved the Minutes for May 30.

Next meeting is scheduled for June 12.

The Meeting adjourned at 2:20.