



TOWN OF NORTON CHARTER COMMISSION

Monday, September 14, 2020
7:00 P.M.

Town Clerk Date/ Time Stamp

RECEIVED
NORTON TOWN CLERK
2020 OCT 29 P 4: 14

Remote Participation Only (Public Welcome):

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83467933252?pwd=RCt2Ym9tNEVJSzFrWUpraThyWTk4Oj09>

Join via Phone (one tap mobile):

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Meeting ID: 834 6793 3252

~MINUTES~

1. Call to Order: Roll Call

The September 14, 2020 meeting of the Charter Commission was called to order at 7:05 PM, by Ms. Laura Parker, Chair.

Members Present: Mr. Dave Heaney, Ms. Denise Luciano, Ms. Sandy Ollerhead, Mr. Kevin Schleicher, Mr. Keith Silver, Ms. Kerry Snyder, and Mr. David Wrenn.

Ms. Janey Goodwin arrived at 7:52 PM.

Ms. Kerry Snyder arrived at 8:20 PM.

2. Acceptance of prior meeting minutes

Motion was made by Mr. Heaney to accept the minutes of July 27, 2020. Seconded by Ms. Luciano. Vote: Mr. Heaney – yes; Ms. Luciano – yes; Ms. Ollerhead – yes; Ms. Parker – yes; Mr. Schleicher – yes; Mr. Silver – yes; Mr. Wrenn – abstain. MOTION CARRIES.

Motion was made by Ms. Luciano to accept the minutes of the Public Hearing on August 17, 2020 and August 22, 2020. Seconded by Mr. Wrenn. Vote: Mr. Heaney – yes; Ms. Luciano – yes; Ms. Ollerhead – yes; Ms. Parker – yes; Mr. Schleicher – abstain; Mr. Silver – yes; Mr. Wrenn – yes. MOTION CARRIES.

3. Public Comment - Open Forum

Michael Toole spoke on two areas of concern he had with the draft charter. The first was with the makeup of the Council as described in section 2.1a. He feels that electing individuals from precincts is a better representation and eliminates the argument others have about representation and losing their voice. He is concerned that different sides of town have different issues and that the average age of some precincts are older than others. He feels it is important that people know who they are going to contact if they have an issue.

Mr. Toole's second concern was with the powers of the town manager. He would like to see appointments of department heads and larger committees made by the Town Council.

4. Public hearings feedback discussion (with Lauren Goldberg)

Ms. Parker read an email from Diane Battistello into the record. Her biggest concern is that people are adequately represented. She knows that Town Meeting is highly ineffective but it's still one person, one vote and removing that should be followed by adequate representation.

Ms. Parker also read an email from Mike Pietrasiewicz into the record. He stated he would be a big fan of making sure that all precincts and areas are represented instead of only having people who are the most interested or have free time. However, he stated he didn't think it was fair for him to poke holes in all of the hard work that the Commission has done at the eleventh hour.

Suggestions were made to both Mr. Pietrasiewicz and Ms. Battistello to watch the meetings where the makeup of the council was discussed after which no further comments were received.

Ms. Parker went through the comments raised at the Public Hearing for discussion by the group.

- No changes were made to the language about the right to postpone (Section 2.6c)
- No changes or amendments were made to the appointment or removal of members of standing committees (Section 2-9)
- Change the language in Section 3.5 to "...*which body with the vacancy* shall recommend to the Council a proposed appointee".

Ms. Goodwin expressed her desire to discuss the precinct councilors based on the fact that the group was so closely divided as well as based on the feedback that she has received. Mr. Heaney brought up that if the composition was changed then that would impact many other decisions that were made. Mr. Schleicher is concerned that if the at-large is maintained, there is the possibility that people will vote against the charter.

Motion was made by Mr. Schleicher to reconsider precinct councilors. Seconded by Ms. Goodwin. Vote: Ms. Goodwin – yes; Mr. Heaney – no; Ms. Luciano – yes; Ms. Ollerhead – no; Ms. Parker – no; Mr. Schleicher – yes; Mr. Silver – yes; Ms. Snyder – yes; Mr. Wrenn – no. MOTION CARRIES.

Further discussion was tabled to the next meeting.

Ms. Parker resumed discussion on the comments and feedback raised at the Public Hearing.

- No changes made to Town Manager appointments of multiple member bodies (Section 4-3(a)(ii))
- No changes were made to the adoption of the budget (Section 6-5)
- No changes were made to the requirement for total number of voters to pass a referendum or initiative (Sections 7-3(g) and 7-4(c))
- Mention will be made in the final report to encourage youth to get involved in local government issues
- Amend 8-2(b) to clarify that the two positions appointed by the Council President and Town Manager must be people who do not hold any town position or serve on any board
- Mr. Silver noted that the woman who runs the housing authority expressed that she would like the positions to remain elected. He will ask her to reach out to the Charter Commission with her rationale.
- No changes were made to the composition of the transition committee (Section 9-6(f))

5. AG's opinion discussion, if received and time permitting

Ms. Goldberg noted that the AG did not find anything substantive that they were worried about and that the few things that they mentioned are things that the commission can look at to see if it wants to clarify. The comments will be addressed at the next meeting.

6. Next Meeting: September 21, 2020

7. Adjournment

Motion was made by Mr. Heaney to adjourn the Charter Commission meeting at 9:33 PM. Seconded by Mr. Silver. Vote: Ms. Goodwin – yes; Mr. Heaney – yes; Ms. Luciano – yes; Ms. Ollerhead – yes; Ms. Parker – yes; Mr. Schleicher – yes; Mr. Silver – yes; Ms. Snyder – yes; Mr. Wrenn – yes. MOTION CARRIES.

Minutes respectfully submitted by: Sandra Ollerhead

Minutes approved by the Board or Committee on: 9/21/20

Chairman Signature: Laura L. Parker