



TOWN OF NORTON CHARTER COMMISSION

Monday, October 5, 2020
7:00 P.M.

Town Clerk Date/ Time Stamp

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Remote Participation Only (Public Welcome):

~MINUTES~

1. Call to Order: Roll Call

The October 5, 2020 meeting of the Charter Commission was called to order at 7:04 PM, by Ms. Laura Parker, Chair.

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

Members Absent: Mr. Kevin Schleicher

2. Acceptance of prior meeting minutes

Motion was made by Ms. Snyder to accept the minutes of September 21, 2020. Seconded by Mr. Heaney. Vote: Ms. Goodwin – yes; Mr. Heaney – yes; Ms. Luciano – yes; Ms. Ollerhead – yes; Ms. Parker – yes; Mr. Silver – yes; Ms. Snyder – yes; Mr. Wrenn – yes. MOTION CARRIES.

3. Public Comment - Open Forum

Oren Sigal asked what consideration went into the decision to have at-large Councilors. Ms. Parker referred him to the dates of the meetings where this was discussed. He stated that personally he was leaning toward more of a representative type of scenario. He also asked how the Town Council and voting public would deal with overrides and debt exclusions under the new system. Ms. Parker explained that there will be no effect on a proposition 2 ½ question, whether that be an override or debt exclusion, as that is governed by Massachusetts General Law.

Mr. Sigal asked for clarification about the public participation process and stated he had concerns about how a resident would raise an issue with the budget. Ms. Parker explained that before the budget is passed the Town Council is required to hold a formal public hearing 14 days prior to the vote. Mr. Sigal stated he also had concerns with the number of signatures required for the various participation measures as well as with not being able to address an agenda item at a meeting. Ms. Goldberg further clarified the opportunities residents have to provide public comment and input.

4. Final review, discussion and potential vote on latest update of charter

Ms. Parker went through the latest update of the charter. She asked Ms. Goldberg whether there was a conflict with Sections 2.6 and 2.8. Ms. Goldberg explained the difference between the two sections. Ms. Snyder asked for further clarification on whether the bylaw needed to be posted in its entirety in Section 2.6 as with Section 2.8 or whether it was just giving notification that the bylaw was coming up for discussion. Ms. Goldberg stated that Section 2.6 wouldn't require the full bylaw to be posted. She suggested clarifying the language in Section 2.6 by adding "*Notice of* any proposed bylaw..." and also suggested that the number of days could be reduced to 10 days. That would provide notice for people to pay attention that it will be coming up at the next Town Council meeting while leaving the five days to finalize the actual language of the bylaw. She explained that the goal of Section 2.6 is to make sure people know what is going to be considered and set the stage for the additional detail required in Section 2.8. Other edits made to the charter were minor grammatical changes.

5. Review draft of the final report from Kerry

Ms. Parker shared the final report drafted by Ms. Snyder. Ms. Snyder went through a brief summary of some of the major changes between the preliminary report and final report. Ms. Parker asked that everyone read through the report and send their comments to both her and Ms. Snyder.

6. Next Meeting: October 19, 2020

7. Adjournment

Motion was made by Mr. Silver to adjourn the Charter Commission meeting at 8:24 PM. Seconded by Mr. Heaney. Vote: Ms. Goodwin – yes; Mr. Heaney – yes; Ms. Luciano – yes; Ms. Ollerhead – yes; Ms. Parker – 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: 10/19/20

Chairman Signature: Laura H. Parker