

6 - Has a change in the town's form of government ever been considered before?

Yes. In 2003, the Select Board formed a Town Government Study Committee and appointed 5 members. In June of 2004, the Committee unanimously recommended a change in the form of government to Town Council / (Strong) Town Manager and presented their report to the Select Board with a legal opinion from Town Counsel. The report and opinion recommended undertaking one of the two processes available to the town to effect a change in government. A non-binding referendum question of whether to approve the Town Government Study Committee's recommendations was posed to the voters at town election in 2005, where it was approved. However, nothing further was ever done.

The recommendations of an elected Charter Commission are reviewed by the State Attorney General to ensure compliance with state law and the constitution and, if deemed not to conflict, do not require the approval of anyone but the town voters in order to go into effect.