



# TOWN OF NORTON CHARTER COMMISSION

Board of Selectmen Meeting Room  
Town Hall, 1st Floor

Monday, September 23, 2019  
7:00 P.M.

Town Clerk Date/ Time Stamp

RECEIVED  
NORTON TOWN CLERK  
2019 OCT 29 P 1:09

## ~MINUTES~

**1. Call to Order: Roll Call, Ask / Announce Recording, Pledge of Allegiance**

The September 23, 2019 meeting of the Charter Commission was called to order at 7:00 PM, by Ms. Laura Parker, Chair.

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

Members Absent: Mr. Dave Heaney

**2. Acceptance of prior meeting minutes**

A motion was made by Ms. Snyder to accept the minutes of September 9, 2019. Second by Ms. Luciano. Vote: Unanimous.

**3. Discussion of administrative items, as needed**

**4. Public Comment – Open forum**

No members of the public wished to speak.

**5. New Business:**

**a. Information Gathering & Research:**

**• Interviews:**

**i. Treasurer: Catherine VanDyne**

- Recently moved to electronic payroll
- Lack of IT is a major problem; security is a big concern
- Affordable Care Act has added a whole other level of responsibility and filing
- There is no place to go in the current Town Hall to have a private conversation and maintain confidentiality
- Currently has to wait for Town Meeting to get approval to borrow; changing form of government could speed some things up

**ii. Director, Council on Aging: Beth Rossi**

- Department used to be run by all volunteers prior to her starting five years ago
- Role of the Council on Aging is to assess the needs of the community and make sure the senior center is providing for these needs
- Board members often come from those who volunteer at the Senior Center
- Also serves as Director of Human Services which takes up the majority of her time
- Big issues are being understaffed (most directors in other towns have a staff) and the facility
- Feels Town Meetings are too long for seniors

### **iii. Town Moderator: Bill Gouveia**

- Reason that Finance Committee is appointed by the moderator is because the moderator doesn't have a stake in articles that get put forth (unlike other committees/boards who have a vested interest)
- Suggested changing title of Finance Committee to Advisory Committee; feels it's still important to have an Advisory Committee even without Town Meeting
- Doesn't receive the list of motions for Town Meeting until the morning of the meeting
- Participation in Town Meeting is a problem virtually everywhere
- Doesn't think having Finance Committee elected is a good idea because wouldn't want them to make a decision or make a recommendation based on having to get re-elected
- Terms on Council should be staggered so that you have some continuity

#### **• Charter review:**

##### **i. Discussion of Amherst's Charter**

- Council made up of 13 members, 3 of which are Councilors at-large and the other 10 are District Councilors
- State of the Town Address delivered by Council President and Town Manager
- Seemed to be more collaboration between School Committee and Town Council
- Town Council serves as Water Commission, Sewer Commission, and Public Ways
- Have different types of public participation options--open meeting, free petition, and initiative measures

##### **b. Charter amendments under discussion by Select Board**

There are two charter amendments proposed on the Town Meeting warrant involving name changes. One proposes to change Selectmen to Select Board and the other would change Industrial Development Committee to Economic Development Committee. Voting on Saturday, a bylaw change, will be an article on the Special Town Meeting warrant.

### **6. Old Business:**

#### **a. Upcoming interview schedule update**

An updated schedule was distributed and discussed.

#### **b. Update on date(s) for MMA and Lauren Goldberg**

Representatives from the MMA Form of Government Committee are scheduled for the November 7th meeting. Ms. Parker will reach out to Lauren Goldberg to see if she can make it that night as well.

#### **c. Survey update**

The survey was posted on the Town Clerk's Facebook page. Ms. Parker will send out another alert in a week or so. Mr. Schleicher spoke with Mr. Peterson at the Sun Chronicle who said he would try to get something in the paper for our survey. Ms. Parker got permission from Lucia to have the survey available at Town Meeting.

#### **d. Remote Participation update**

Board of Selectmen should be voting on remote participation at their next meeting.

### **7. Other Business: Topics not reasonably anticipated 48 hours in advance**

**8. Next Meeting: October 7, 2019**

a. Next town's charter review: North Attleboro

**9. Action Items: Clerk to review**

Ms. Parker will call the library to see if can meet there Nov 18<sup>th</sup> and call Lauren to see if she is available on Nov 7<sup>th</sup>

Ms. Ollerhead will put the 2004 Government Study into Dropbox

**10. Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn made by Luciano at 10:28 PM. Second by Wrenn. Vote: Unanimous.

Minutes respectfully submitted by: Dan & Ollerhead

Minutes approved by the Board or Committee on: 10/7/19

Chairman Signature: Lauren St. Parker