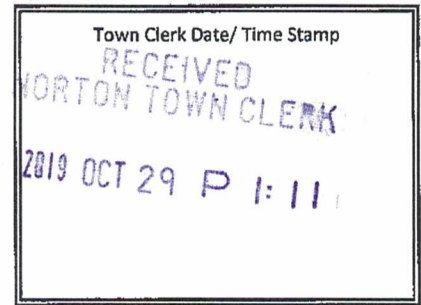




TOWN OF NORTON CHARTER COMMISSION

Board of Selectmen Meeting Room
Town Hall, 1st Floor

Monday, October 7, 2019
7:00 P.M.



~MINUTES~

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

The October 7, 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. Keith Silver, Ms. Kerry Snyder, and Mr. David Wrenn.

Members Absent: Mr. Dave Heaney and Mr. Kevin Schleicher.

2. Public Comment – Open forum

Ralph Stefanelli gave an overview of the various volunteer roles he's held in Norton including his 21 years on the Norton Housing Authority. He spoke of the importance of volunteers and encouraged the Commission to keep the entire town in mind.

3. Information Gathering & Research - Interviews:

a. Canoe River Aquifer Advisory Commission: Linda Kollet

- Gave a brief history of CRAAC and the work they have accomplished since they were established by the state in 1987
- Feels it would be helpful to open up a method of communication so that the committee could be involved on decisions which could impact the aquifer
- Currently have 2 vacant spots on the committee; required to have one member of the Norton water department on the committee which they currently do not have
- Personally feels that Town Meeting is government by special interest; would like if a compromise can be found where people still feel like they are being heard

b. Council on Aging

MaryAnn Dempsey

- Started as a volunteer at Senior Center before becoming a board member and is now serving as chair
- Would like to have a few more board members; suggested 11 with 2 alternates
- Would like to have someone from Select Board attend their meetings

Sharyn Stedman

- Would like to have a liaison from the Select Board
- Spoke in favor of some kind of term limits for members of COA
- Thinks there should be representatives from COA involved in the appointment of the director

c. School Committee: Kathleen Stern

- Currently a five-member board which works out well with the five schools
- Superintendent search committee is outlined in the policy handbook and includes town officials, School Committee members, and parents

- Personally feels that if we could have a Town Meeting where people show up and vote it would work but doesn't see that happening
- Would like to see more people get involved

d. Conservation Commission

Scott Ollerhead

- Commission exists because of the Wetlands Protection Act which is determined at the state level
- Would like to see collaboration between Town Manager and Conservation Commission
- Need a Town Engineer who has a vested interest in our town to weigh in on projects
- Town Meeting is not a true representation of the opinions of the voters of Norton

Daniel Pearson

- Commission has been considering having alternates
- Looking to bring in Wheaton student as an intern

4. Acceptance of prior meeting minutes

A motion was made by Ms. Luciano to accept the minutes of September 23, 2019. Second by Ms. Snyder. Vote: Unanimous.

5. Discussion of administrative items, as needed

November 18th meeting will be at Norton Public Library

a. Upcoming interview schedule update

An updated schedule was distributed and discussed.

b. Confirmation of meeting with MMA and Lauren Goldberg

Meeting was confirmed for November 7th with both MMA and Lauren Goldberg.

c. Survey update

Ms. Parker sent out another Norton Alert. Mr. Schleicher will visit the Senior Center on October 15th. Ms. Goodwin suggested putting out another survey at some point. Everyone agreed that public engagement is key.

d. Remote Participation update

Ms. Parker hopes to see the Select Board vote at their October 17th meeting.

6. Information Gathering & Research - Charter reviews and discussion:

a. North Attleboro

- Determine President and Vice President of Town Council by highest number of votes
- Town Manager appoints members of committees and boards
- Have a standing Charter Review Committee

7. Topics not reasonably anticipated 48 hours in advance

8. Next Meeting: October 22, 2019 (Tuesday)

- a. Next town's charter review: Bridgewater**

9. Action Items: Clerk to review

Members were asked to come to the next meeting with ideas of things that the commission may want to look into further.

10. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn made by Ms. Snyder at 10:08 PM. Second by Ms. Luciano.
Vote: Unanimous.

Minutes respectfully submitted by: Diana R. Ollerhead

Minutes approved by the Board or Committee on: 10/22/19

Chairman Signature: Laura L. Parker