



TOWN OF NORTON CHARTER COMMISSION

Board of Selectmen Meeting Room
Town Hall, 1st Floor

Monday, December 30, 2019
7:00 P.M.

Town Clerk Date/ Time Stamp

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NORTON TOWN CLERK
2020 FEB 12 P 2:04

~MINUTES~

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

The December 30, 2019 meeting of the Charter Commission was called to order at 7:00 PM, by Ms. Laura Parker, Chair.

Members Present: Ms. Janey Goodwin, Mr. Dave Heaney, Mr. Kevin Schleicher, and Mr. David Wrenn.

Members Absent: Mr. Keith Silver, Ms. Kerry Snyder

Ms. Denise Luciano arrived at 7:03 PM

2. Public Comment – Open forum

No members of the public wished to speak.

3. Information Gathering & Research - Interviews

a. Board of Health

Diane Battistello

- Gave examples of the types of policy changes that the Board of Health deals with
- Board met with candidates for Health Agent prior to hiring and they were able to give their input on the selection
- Thinks having the Board of Health appointed is working out fine for Norton

b. Upcoming interview: Historic District Commission 1/13/20

4. Acceptance of prior meeting minutes

A motion was made by Mr. Heaney to accept the minutes of December 16, 2019. Second by Mr. Schleicher. Vote: 5-Yes; 1-Abstained (Ms. Luciano)

5. Discussion of administrative items, as needed

Ms. Parker reminded everyone that the end of year campaign finance paperwork is due. Ms. Sandy Ollerhead arrived at 7:21 PM

6. Information gathering & research – discussion, as needed

No discussion was necessary.

7. Discussion of recommendations, including potential vote(s) / Addressing issues raised

a. Form of government

• **Legislative & Executive Branch**

An informal straw poll was taken to get each member's recommendations for the legislative and executive branches. The two members who were absent from the meeting each sent a statement in writing to contribute to the discussion. The following challenges were noted with our current Town Meeting form of government:

- Currently there is a lack of participation at Town Meeting and those who participate are not necessarily representative of the entire town
- Town Meeting is not efficient or effective--by having all the decisions in town being made twice a year, decisions are made too slowly and opportunities are missed
- Lack of accountability
- Nearly impossible for the average citizen to obtain all of the information in order to make a truly educated decision
- Doesn't meet the needs of the town in this day and age
- Modern schedules and responsibilities do not lend themselves to a fully informed Town Meeting member and detract from regular attendance
- Long term Master Plan is impossible to follow given that there are many unknowns with Town Meeting

At the end of the discussion, all seven members in attendance along with the two who sent in statements were in agreement that a Town Council/Town Manager form of government would best address these issues for Norton.

8. Topics not reasonably anticipated 48 hours in advance

9. Next Meeting: January 13, 2020

10. Action Items: Clerk to review

Ms. Parker passed out a list of key decisions that will need to be voted on. She asked that anyone had anything to add to email them to her. She will use this list to build a timeline for the meetings going forward.

11. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn made by Mr. Schleicher at 8:35 PM. Second by Mr. Heaney. Vote: Unanimous.

Minutes respectfully submitted by: Dana ~ Allenhead

Minutes approved by the Board or Committee on: 1/13/20

Chairman Signature: Laura L Parker