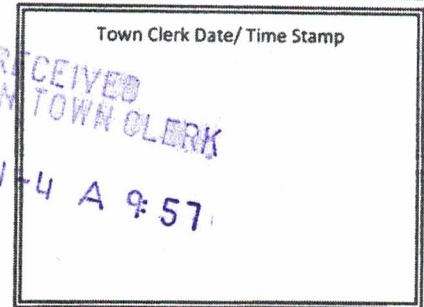




TOWN OF NORTON CHARTER COMMISSION

Monday, April 20, 2020
7:00 P.M.



Remote Participation Only (Public Welcome):

<https://zoom.us/j/92600573270?pwd=MmsxS05mYUEweUc2eFp0VEF5RTg4QT09>

Join via Phone(one tap mobile):

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Meeting ID: 926-0057-3270

~MINUTES~

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

The April 20, 2020 meeting of the Charter Commission was called to order at 7:09 PM, by Ms. Laura Parker, Chair.

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

2. Acceptance of prior meeting minutes

Motion was made by Mr. Silver to accept the minutes of March 6, 2020. Seconded by Ms. Goodwin. Vote: Ms. Goodwin - yes; Mr. Heaney - yes; Ms. Luciano - abstain; Ms. Ollerhead - yes; Ms. Parker - yes; Mr. Schleicher - yes; Mr. Silver - yes; Ms. Snyder - yes; Mr. Wrenn - yes. MOTION CARRIES.

3. Discussion of administrative items, if any

Ms. Parker does not have an update about our draft charter since our last meeting. She will be placing a call to Lauren Goldberg to get an update.

Ms. Parker and Ms. Ollerhead had a conference call on April 16th with Senator Feeney to discuss the possibility of getting an extension on the deadlines within the home rule procedures. He recommended drafting a letter to the Attorney General to explain the situation and ask for a sixty-day extension. If no resolution is received from the Attorney General, he will ask the municipalities committee within the state to draft legislation to provide an extension on the deadlines. Ms. Snyder volunteered to write a letter to the Attorney General.

4. Public Comment – Open forum

No members of the public wished to speak.

5. Discussion and potential vote(s) of Charter elements:

a. Financial / Fiscal Provisions

Ms. Parker went through the financial provisions within the North Attleboro charter in chronological order for discussion. Other than taking out language related to the electric department and municipal light department, everyone was in agreement with the language included in the North Attleboro charter.

The question was raised about whether the town council should have discretion to tell the town manager to create a capital improvements committee to assist with the

capital improvements program. Mr. Wrenn felt that it should be up to the town manager to develop the program and decide whether he/she wanted a committee to assist.

It was agreed to add language to the charter to give the Town Manager the option to create a capital improvements committee to assist in preparing a capital improvements program

Motion was made by Ms. Snyder to accept the budget process outlined. Seconded by Mr. Wrenn. Vote: Ms. Goodwin - yes; Mr. Heaney - yes; Ms. Luciano - yes; Ms. Ollerhead - yes; Ms. Parker - yes; Mr. Schleicher - yes; Mr. Silver - yes; Ms. Snyder - yes; Mr. Wrenn - yes. MOTION CARRIES.

b. Citizen Participation options

Ms. Parker went through an overview of the various citizen participation mechanisms that are available in Massachusetts charters.

Free Petition:

- Allows any voters to ask a measure to be considered by the town council
- Non-binding

Initiative:

- Group or individual can demand that a measure be passed by gathering a certain number of signatures
- If town council rejects petition, a supplementary petition with additional signatures can force a special election to be held
- Generally the number of signatures required is between 5% to 15% of registered voters

Referendum:

- Demand for reconsideration of a recently passed measure of the town council
- Subject to a petition of 5% to 15% of the registered voters
- Time limit to collect signatures needs to be decided
- Town council can either choose to rescind or send to an election

Recall

- Have provisions in current Norton charter for recall
- Need to determine time frame to collect signatures

Ms. Snyder would like to ask Ms. Goldberg again about limiting an incumbent from appearing on a recall ballot. Ms. Ollerhead questioned the language in the Norton charter that prevents someone who is recalled from serving on any other town office for two years.

6. Action Items: Clerk to review

Come prepared to further discuss citizen participation options and requirements.

7. Adjournment

Motion was made by Ms. Luciano to adjourn the Charter Commission meeting at 8:27 PM. Seconded by Mr. Silver. Vote: Unanimous.

Minutes respectfully submitted by: Dawn Ollerhead

Minutes approved by the Board or Committee on: 5/4/20

Chairman Signature: [Signature]