



TOWN OF NORTON CHARTER COMMISSION

Monday, June 1, 2020
7:00 P.M.

Town Clerk Date/ Time Stamp

RECEIVED
NORTON TOWN CLERK
2020 OCT 19 A 8:21

Remote Participation Only (Public Welcome):

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82313970739?pwd=Wm5RRXlTdIM1WDdQUHpKcVhOO3EwQT09>

Join via Phone (one tap mobile):

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Meeting ID: 823 1397 0739

~MINUTES~

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

The June 1, 2020 meeting of the Charter Commission was called to order at 7:06 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. Schleicher to accept the minutes of May 18, 2020. Seconded by Ms. Goodwin. Vote: Ms. Goodwin - yes; Mr. Heaney - yes; Ms. Luciano - yes; Ms. Ollerhead - yes; Ms. Parker - yes; Mr. Schleicher - yes; Mr. Silver; Ms. Snyder - yes; Mr. Wrenn - yes. MOTION CARRIES.

3. Discussion of administrative items, if any

Lauren Goldberg will have the draft of the charter by Friday.

Senator Feeney emailed on Tuesday to let Ms. Parker know that a municipal bill is being drafted and he is advocating for inclusion of the charter commission language being included in that. He hopes to have more information by early next week on the timing of that bill.

Ms. Goldberg explained that the deadline in the special acts is viewed as directory versus mandatory and therefore if the commission doesn't meet the deadline it doesn't invalidate their work. As long as the work is done in time to make sure the purposes of the Home Rule Procedures Act and the Home Rule Amendment are met, that action is sufficient even if it came a few weeks late.

Ms. Goldberg suggested looking into how much time would be needed to get the preliminary report to the printer and how it would be printed for the newspaper. The preliminary report does not have to be complete and could point out issues that remain outstanding.

4. Public Comment – Open forum

No members of the public wished to speak.

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

a. Citizen Participation options

Ms. Goldberg answered the questions that were emailed to her and made the following recommendations:

- "Revenue loan orders" should not be included as an exclusion; the law has changed and no vote of the legislative body is required for a temporary borrowing in anticipation of revenue
- The budget as a whole should be excluded, including particular lines; there is time for residents to weigh in during the budget process
- School Committee doesn't need to be included in the referendum or initiative measures since they don't pass legislation and are subject to a significant amount of independence under the Education Reform Act; can provide free petition to allow entities to get on the school committee's agenda
- Unusual to have nomination papers circulated by the person who is in office during a recall election
- Typically, the vote to recall includes a vote to elect

It was agreed to keep the school committee out of the initiative and referendum measures. Within the exclusions, the language stating "the budget as a whole" will be changed to the language from the Amesbury charter which states "the city budget or any appropriation contained therein or the school committee budget or any appropriation contained therein or the capital improvements program or any item contained therein".

The recall election will also include a vote to elect the replacement. The subject of a recall will automatically appear on the ballot and would not need to pull papers.

6. Next Meeting: June 15, 2020

7. Action Items: Clerk to review

Ms. Parker asked that everyone read the draft charter and email her with any suggested changes in advance of the next meeting.

8. Adjournment

Motion was made by Ms. Snyder to adjourn the Charter Commission meeting at 8:53 PM. Seconded by Mr. Schleicher. 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.

Minutes respectfully submitted by: Dawn M. Ollerhead

Minutes approved by the Board or Committee on: 6/15/20

Chairman Signature: Laura L. Parker