

TOWN OF BRIDGEWATER

Charter Review Committee

Ed Ivaldi, Chair
Cleonie Mainvielle
Darren Boston
Steve Persell
Thomas Golden
Scott Pitta
Janet Hanson



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Academy Building - 66 Central Square
Bridgewater, MA 02324

Charter Review Committee Meeting Minutes 1/6/2021

Call to Order at 6:02PM (Meeting is recorded)

Members Present: Ed Ivaldi, Cleonie Mainvielle, Thomas Golden, Darren Boston, Janet Hanson, Scott Pitta, Steve Persell

Members not in attendance:

Guests Present: Mark Linde, Councilman William Wood, Carlton Hunt, Marilee Hunt, Matt Gerritsen – Library Board of Trustees, Constance Franciosi – Library Board of Trustees, Adelene Ellenberg, Pat Neary, Cristina Ajemian, Fred Chase, Gina Guasconi, Donna LeClair, Marie Benoit, Martin Middleton

Roll Call

Approval of Meeting Minutes on 12/30

Thomas Golden motioned to approve the meeting minutes from 12/30/2020, Janet Hanson seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

Potential Election Date Change – Guest Speaker Marilee Hunt

Marilee Hunt was invited by the committee to speak on the potential date change for elections. Mrs. Hunt explained that there would be numerous challenges and obstacles should the date be changed after her thorough research into the subject. Many of the challenges would be with providing ballots in a timely manner, term limits of elected positions, alignment with the school elections, and staffing requirements. Based on the information provided, Marilee Hunt believes that changing the date would create an increased cost for the town rather than provide any savings with the change.

Ed Ivaldi asked for Marilee Hunt's stance on the Town Clerk position with the Town of Bridgewater, and Mrs. Hunt stated her support on the importance of the position remaining elected rather than appointed. Mrs. Hunt also shared her personal experience as the current Town Clerk with the committee.

Public Comment

William Wood 388 Hayward St – Made comments on the letter distributed to the committee by Mr. Wood regarding the position of Town Clerk.

Fred Chase – Mr. Chase commented on the Town Clerk position and his support that it remains an elected position.

Adelene Ellenberg 76 Aldridge Road – Ms. Ellenberg commented on the Town Clerk position and her strong support that the position remains elected rather than appointed.

Rebecca Cordeiro – Ms. Cordeiro commented on the Town Clerk position and her support to keep the position remains an elected position.

Cristina Ajemian 220 Aldridge Rd – Ms. Ajemian commented on the Town Clerk position and shared her support for it to remain an elected position.

Old Business

Charter Review – Article 3

Article 3-1

Scott Pitta reviewed his proposed changes within Article 3-1 with the committee. The committee held extensive discussion on the challenges the charter and town may face as well as the possible conflicts of interest in allowing town employees to participate in elected and appointed positions. Language to include “annual Town Council approval” was added.

Scott Pitta motioned to approve the language changes as proposed in 3-1, Thomas Golden seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

Scott Pitta motioned to adopt the proposed language for lines 31-32 in Article 3-2b, Darren Boston seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

Scott Pitta motioned to adopt the Library Board of Trustees language in 3-2c, Darren Boston seconded the motion. With a vote of 7 yea and 1 abstain, the motion was approved.

Darren Boston motioned to adopt 3-2e to the Town Charter, Janet Hanson seconded the motion. With a vote of 7 yea and 1 abstain, the motion was approved.

Scott Pitta motioned to adopt the language changes in 3-2f to the Town Charter, Steve Persell seconded the motion. With a vote of 6 yea and 2 abstain, the motion was approved.

Steve Persell motioned to adopt the language changes in 3-2g, Darren Boston seconded the motion. With a vote of 7 yea and 1 abstain, the motion was approved.

Scott Pitta motioned to adopt 3-2h to the Town Charter, Janet Hanson seconded the motion. With a vote of 7 yea and 1 abstain, the motion was approved.

Scott Pitta motioned to adopt 3-2i to the Town Charter, Steve Persell seconded the motion. With a vote of 7 yea and 1 abstain, the motion was approved.

Public Comment

Adelene Ellenberg 76 Aldridge Road – Ms. Ellenberg gave recommendations on language for the library director paragraph that was discussed.

Matt Gerritsen – Mr. Gerritsen commented on the Library Board of Trustees discussion.

Marilee Hunt 80 Austin St – Mrs. Hunt commentend on the annual town report that was discussed in 3-2.

Cristina Ajemian 220 Aldridge road – Ms. Ajemian commented on the town employee eligibility for elected and appointed positions.

Next Meeting – Wednesday January 20th, 2021 at 6PM

Thomas Golden motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:05PM, Darren Boston seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

Adjourn – 8:05PM