

Charter and Bylaw Committee Minutes

Wednesday August 30, 2023

Arcand Meeting Room 5P

Members in Attendance: D. Martinis, S. Garten, K. Grant, J. Altomonte, J. Collamati (zoom), W. O'Connell, L. Sposato, B. Salisbury (zoom)

The meeting opened at 5p by D. Martinis.

5:00 PM – Open Meeting

I. Roll Call: Members in Attendance: D. Martinis, S. Garten, K. Grant, J. Altomonte (zoom), J. Collamati (zoom), W. O'Connell, L. Sposato, B. Salisbury (zoom)

II. Review/Finalize/Vote on Charter: Chair Martinis thanked the citizen who again came out to discuss this charter. He is asking the committee to review and then vote to move the amended charter to the town meeting. The one area of continued discussion is the Town Administrator Residency Requirement. There has been quite a bit of discussion on this issue. The Chair recommends that we stay with removing this requirement as was previously discussed for the past year. The select board and the committee can continue to insist that they be extremely active in town.

Mr. Sposato would feel more comfortable to amend the language to say, "residency preferred but not required."

Mr. O'Connell: Would rather leave the wording as is and allow the select board to waive the requirement.

Roll call vote to remove the residency requirement follows: 6/2 in favor with J. Altomonte and W. O'Connell voting no.

Mr. Sposato wanted to continue the discussion about making sure that the two ad hoc members to the committee for the future. After much discussion of the board the recommended the language change suggestion would be: "preference be given to residence who do not hold an elected position."

Motion made by L. Sposato to accept these changes as presented. Unanimous 8-0 via roll call.

Mr. Martinis made a motion to move the charter to the town meeting to be presented ahead to the citizens on 10/30. Second by S. Garten. Roll call vote: 6-2 in favor with W. O'Connell and J. Altomonte voting no.

III. Vote On the following Meeting Minutes:

<u>2021</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2023</u>
March 8, 2021	January 10, 2022	May 10, 2023
April 12, 2021	February 7, 2022	June 14, 2023
June 14, 2021	March 22, 2022	July 12, 2023
July 12, 2021	May 9, 2022	August 9, 2023
August 9, 2021	June 6, 2022	
November 8, 2021	July 11, 2022	
	September 27, 2022	
	November 21, 2022	

Mr. Martinis acknowledged that we have been discussing the minutes. After reviewing the very first set of minutes, we have accomplished what we set out to do. He also expressed his wish to not get into a lengthy conversation we have discussed.

Mr. O'Connell question minutes being replicated.

Mr. Sposato feels that some of what Mr. Martinis said is a misrepresentation. He stated that there is a defined way minutes should be written, and that is why they are reviewed at the next meeting.

Mr. Martinis made a motion to approve the minutes as were presented. Second by S. Garten. Vote by roll call 5-2-1 with W. O'Connell and J. Altomonte against and L. Sposato abstaining.

IV. Set Date for Public Meeting to Review Charter Changes with Citizens prior to Fall Town Meeting: The date of Monday Oct 30 at 7p is available for the Arcand room. This date is amenable to the committee and therefore we will hold the review at that time for citizens to ask questions. The committee will also present this to the select board to review changes.

Citizen Input:

Pastor Baron wanted to acknowledge the hard work that committee has done. He started to attend meetings because after the town meeting in May he was concerned. He is happy that what he has seen in the meetings is the opposite.

Mrs. Odabashian wanted to ask David (employee in Clerks office) why he was recording the meeting on his personal device and if that was subject to everyone being able to see it.

David responded that he was recording for his own use.

Mr. Hamway commended the committee and chair for the leadership through this process.

Mr. Martinis made a motion to close the meeting at 6:05. Seconded by Mrs. Garten. Roll Call vote was Unanimous.