

CHARTER COMMISSION FOR THE TOWN OF PROVINCETOWN

Meeting Minutes for August 29, 2016

Meeting held in the Judge Welsh Room of Town Hall

Present: Judith Cicero, Tom Coen, Michelle Crone-DeMarco, Marcy Feller, Steve Katsurinis, Julia Perry, Elizabeth Williams

Absent Excused: Robert Speiser, Robert Vetrick

The Meeting was called to order by the Chair at 1:05 pm.

1. There were no Public Statements.

2. Doug Johnstone, Town Clerk, addressed the Commission on his recommendations for revising the Charter, including:

a. Timing of the closing of the Warrant, Town Meeting, and Town Election (addressed in Chapter 2)

i. Recommend from 30 to 45 days between closing of Warrant and Town Meeting.

A. One and a half to two weeks needed to get matters published in the Banner.

B. Time for BOS to determine order of Warrant items.

C. Time for advisory Committees to hold Public Hearings on Warrant items.

D. Need to educate Public on Warrant items. Tom Coen raised option of Voter Guidebook telling voters what a yes vote would do and what a no vote would do.

ii. Move Town Meeting to 1st Monday in May

iii. Move Election to third Tuesday in June

A. Would allow Residents who winter elsewhere time to return.

B. Would allow deadline to get on ballot to be moved from early March to late April.

C. Not inconsistent with what other Towns are doing.

b. Chapter 3-1: Appointing authorities notifying Town Clerk of removal of members. Recommend removal because not being done.

c. Chapter 3-2-1: Change to match Massachusetts Open Meeting laws.

d. Modernization: Update Town By-Laws on Town website. Post Minutes on website. Change "mail" to "email".

e. Clarify Termination/Recall procedures.

f. General clarification and ease of language.

3. Discussion of FAQ changes by Marcy Feller. Adopted by Commission. Will be posted on the Charter Commission website.
4. Discussion of letters sent to Committees (except BOS and Moderator). The letters asked for their authority and input.
5. Judy Cicero and Michelle Crone DeMarco will communicate with BOS and Moderator.
5. Julia Perry and Elizabeth Williams to address Town Manager and Town Meeting as far as access issues.
6. Steve Katsurinas to draft his proposal for a super regulatory committee.
7. Other Committee issues that need to be addressed are term limits and residency requirements.
8. Still need to determine organization of Charter with regard to various Board issues - elected versus appointed, boards with State authority versus boards established to address solely Town issues.
9. Need to make sure all Director level Departments of Town Government are identified in the Charter - including DPW, Finance.
10. There is potential for proposing a multi-level/pre-Court appeal process:
  - a. Board of Magistrates (potentially Charter Enforcement Commission) - traffic appeals, failure of board to follow rules in determining rights.
  - b. Mediation - neutral/contractor - resolution of disputes.
  - c. Ombudsperson - to present issues on behalf of an individual or group to a board.
11. Need for training of board chairs and members.
12. Need for process to address behavior of board chairs.
13. Minutes for August 1 and 15 accepted.
14. Meeting every other week through September for two hours. Meeting starting in October every week for an hour and a half.

The Meeting adjourned at 3:15.