

CHARTER COMMISSION FOR THE TOWN OF PROVINCETOWN

Meeting Minutes for October 24, 2016

Meeting held in the Judge Welsh Room of Town Hall

Present: Judith Cicero, Tom Coen, Julia Perry, Robert Speiser, Robert Vetrick, Elizabeth Williams

Absent Excused: Michelle Crone-DeMarco, Marcy Feller, Steve Katsurinis

The Meeting was called to order by the Chair at 1:02 pm.

1. Public Statements - none.
2. The Chair shared with the Commission that per her discussion with the Ethics Attorney in the Attorney General's Office the Ethics Rules do not apply to an elected Charter Commission. Julia's interpretation is that this means the members of the Commission can discuss any topic - there is no restriction due to a potential conflict of interest. She encouraged the Commission Members to continue to comply with Ethics Rules otherwise.
3. Julia Perry shared copies of the Handbook of Rules for Town Boards - prepared and distributed by the Town Clerk to new Board members. They discussed various sections - including definitions, and emergency meetings. They also discussed whether making this guide updated and available should be made an on-going responsibility of the Town Clerk's Office. Robert Speiser will review it and compare it to the work he is doing on the Charter chapters relating to rules for Boards (Chapters 3/5).
4. The Commission discussed Behavior Guidelines for Boards which Julia Perry drafted. Robert Speiser will also consider and incorporate these guidelines into his redrafting of Chapters 3/5.
5. The Commission discussed removal of appointed members who fail to comply with the guidelines. The current Charter allows for removal by the appointing authority with good cause. Need to clarify that this also applies to an appointing authority that is a single person. (Current Charter refers to majority vote - applies to Board of Selectmen.) Need to simplify removal process for clarification. Also current process doesn't recognize right of individual to resign.
6. The Commission questioned whether the process to remove a public employee belongs in the Charter. This will require further research. Commission also discussed the need for an HR function - versus the Personnel Board. Proposal to dismantle Chapter 10 and redistribute it.

7. Commission discussed potential reorganization of the Charter. Chair proposed to discuss with Town Counsel the status of the Transitional Chapter directions and whether it can be an Appendix.
8. Minutes for October 17, 2016, were accepted.
9. Commission confirmed that it will be meeting every Monday, but not the Monday after Christmas or the Monday after New Year's because they are legal holidays and Town Hall will be closed.

The Meeting adjourned at 2:20.