

## REPORT OF THE CHARTER REVIEW SUBCOMMITTEE OF THE TOWN COUNCIL

The Charter Review Subcommittee met three times to discuss the potential changes to the charter. We reviewed the recommendations of the Ad-hoc Charter Review Committee, documents submitted from various sources, and we met with Marilyn Contreas from the Massachusetts Department of Housing and Community Development. Ms. Contreas has over 25 years of experience dealing with charters throughout the Commonwealth and provided the Committee with a great deal of information and insight.

After reviewing and discussing the information, the Subcommittee went through the charter section by section and discussed potential changes.

There was a great deal of discussion about the terms of office and elected vs. appointed positions. It was difficult to come to a conclusive decision about changing the date and terms of elected officers. In light of that discussion, we recommended no changes in the present system. We also discussed elected vs. appointed positions. We recommend that the Assessors, Board of Health, Constables and Treasurer-Collector become appointed positions.

We also have a list of minor/technical changes that we are recommending to update the charter. The attached sheet outlines our recommendations. **Please note that the proposed changes are in “bullet” form, and that the actual words would have to be carefully crafted and reviewed prior to a final vote of the full Council.**

We suggest that these recommendations be forwarded to the next Council for a full discussion and invite elected and appointed officials and citizens to comment on our recommendations. After a hearing, the Council could take final action on the proposed changes and vote to request a Home Rule Petition that would lead to a ballot question for the citizens of Franklin to decide on the proposed changes.

We would like to thank everyone for their insight, and we hope that it would be one of the first orders of business for the next Council.

Regards,

Thomas Doak  
Stephen Whalen  
Shannon Zollo