

**CHARTER COMMISSION MEETING
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 22, 2009 – 7 P.M.**

The Charter Commission held their initial meeting on Tuesday, December 22, 2009 at 7 p.m. in the Town Hall Chamber. The following members were in attendance:

**John Bird
Laura Bolduc
Jayne Flaherty
William Gombar
Tianna Higgins
Paul Ladakakos
Ronald Regis
Michael Vallante
Kenneth Blow, excused absence**

Also in attendance were the following:

**Kim McLaughlin, Town Clerk
Jack Turcotte, interim Town Manager (left before Item #3 started)**

Interim Town Manager started by introducing himself and advising that he was ready to assist at any time. He believes the Charter Commission is an important task. He wishes the Commission well, and he's only a few steps away.

The members than introduced themselves, and spoke about their various backgrounds.

Paul Ladakakos mentioned there are eight people present tonight to pick a Chair and a Vice-Chair. He recommended that each member be given a piece of paper to mark their vote so there would not be any animosity or bickering, and then the Commission could just vote to accept or reject. The discussion then centered around an Australian ballot, and Jack Turcotte mentioned he thought that because it is a public meeting, all votes must be made in public. The members agreed, and chose to forgo an Australian ballot.

Item #1: Discussion with Action: Elect the Chairperson.

Paul Ladakakos made a motion to nominate himself as Chair and gave a speech as to why he will represent the Commission well as Chair. Michael Vallante seconded.

Laura Bolduc then made a motion to nominate John Bird as Chair. Jayne Flaherty seconded. Laura then advised the Commission about why she made the nomination.

William Gombar then motioned to cease nominations. Michael Vallante seconded. The vote was 8-0.

Michael Vallante stated because he is not familiar with either person, he requested the commission to allow each candidate the opportunity to tell why they want the Chair's position. John Bird and then Paul Ladakakos advised why they should be elected Chair.

The first motion for Paul Ladakakos for Chair was voted upon. Tianna Higgins – no; Michael Vallante – yes; Laura Bolduc – no; Jayne Flaherty – no; Ronald Regis – yes; William Gombar – yes; John Bird – abstain; Paul Ladakakos – yes. The vote was four in favor, three against, and one abstention.

The second motion for John Bird for Chair was voted upon. Paul Ladakakos – no; John Bird – abstain; William Gombar – no; Ronald Regis – no; Jayne Flaherty – yes; Laura Bolduc – yes; Michael Vallante – yes; Tianna Higgins – yes. The vote was four in favor, three against, and one abstention.

Because both motions ended with the same results, it was agreed upon, and a motion made by Paul Ladakakos and seconded by William Gombar, that both names would be read at the same time and then a vote taken. Voted unanimously.

**Tianna Higgins – John Bird
Michael Vallante – Paul Ladakakos
Laura Bolduc – John Bird
Jayne Flaherty – John Bird
Ronald Regis – Paul Ladakakos
William Gombar – Paul Ladakakos
John Bird – abstain
Paul Ladakakos – Paul Ladakakos**

The vote was in favor of Paul Ladakakos as Chairperson, four in favor, three against, and one abstention.

Item #2: Discussion with Action: Elect the Vice-Chairperson.

Michael Vallante motioned, seconded by William Gombar to elect John Bird as Vice-Chairperson.

William Gombar motioned, seconded by Tianna Higgins to cease nominations. Voted to pass unanimously.

Motion to elect John Bird as Vice-Chairperson passed unanimously.

Item #3: Discussion with Action: Appoint the Secretary.

It was discussed that a Secretary, per state law, must be appointed from “amongst the members” of the Charter Commission. John Bird stated that the secretary could be a figure head and then have someone else do the actual recording of the minutes.

Jayne Flaherty motioned, and Michael Vallante seconded, to elect Laura Bolduc as Secretary.

William Gombar motioned, and seconded by Michael Vallante, to cease further nominations. Voted to pass unanimously.

The motion to elect Laura Bolduc as secretary was passed seven with one abstention (Laura Bolduc).

Item #4: Discussion with Action: Discuss and possibly set the dates and times of the meetings.

Tianna Higgins inquired how long the Charter Commission has to do the work, how many meetings the Commission should have, and then asked of Laura Bolduc (who had been on the last Charter Commission) how the meeting process should go.

Laura Bolduc advised that the last Charter Commission met about 35-40 times from start to end. Initially they met twice a month, and then weekly for the last four weeks to wrap things up, and this occurred over the course of a year.

Jayne Flaherty then advised that she would be out of Town from January 16th, 2010 to the first week in April of 2010.

The public hearing, which must occur within 30 days of this meeting, was then discussed. Chair Ladakakos motioned, seconded by William Gombar to hold the Public Hearing in Town Hall Council Chambers on January 13th, 2010 at 7 p.m. Motion passed unanimously.

The regular meetings were then discussed, and the importance of setting dates and times well in advance for everyone's tight schedules, and the use of the Council Chambers.

Ronald Regis motioned, seconded by William Gombar to set the meeting dates of the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month at 7 p.m., starting January 26th, 2010, through December.

There was discussion about changing dates as the meeting went along for any unforeseen circumstances, but that it was important to try to stick to these dates. The motion then passed unanimously.

Item #5: Discussion Initial meeting to discuss Charter Commission process.

Jayne Flaherty thought it would be a good idea to review the Charters from various communities to assist in formulating our Charter.

Chair Ladakakos agreed, and that sentiment was then echoed by other members.

Tianna Higgins mentioned the Town of Scarborough's Charter.

Chair Ladakakos then mentioned reviewing other towns that are similar to Old Orchard Beach, like Kennebunkport or York Beach.

Ronald Regis then mentioned Ogunquit.

Laura Bolduc advised that it would be a good idea to look at Charters that have a managerial form of government similar to ours.

Ronald Regis mentioned that it may be time to change the Charter to possibly a Mayoral form of government.

Chair Ladakakos advised that the Commission can discuss that when the article is discussed at another meeting. Chair Ladakakos then mentioned that for future meetings, he would like members to go through the Chair.

John Bird then stated that the members need to be free to discuss in a round table format.

Chair Ladakakos agreed, stating that unless they're having a round table discussion. He wants the meetings to be professional, and advised he will do his best to be a good Chairperson. He told the Commission that if they felt he wasn't doing a good job, to make him aware of that.

John Bird then inquired when it would be the appropriate time to meet with Department Heads.

It was agreed that the department heads would meet with the Commission when their section of the Charter was reviewed.

It was then discussed about the agenda for the January 26th meeting.

Tianna Higgins mentioned the Charter Commission should discuss Articles 1 and 2.

Laura Bolduc added Article 3, believing they could review all three that night.

Jerome Begert, 4 Gables Way, was a member of the public sitting in the audience for tonight's meeting. He stated the Charter Commission could review other Charters through the various Town websites. He also wanted it recorded that he was going to be lobbying to get the Charter Commission meetings televised.

Chair Ladakakos then mentioned the Charter Commission should be cautious about when to call the Town Attorney, advising of the cost to do so.

John Bird stated the Charter Commission could use the free advice of Maine Municipal Association.

Item #6: Good and Welfare.

Jerome Begert, 4 Gables Way, inquired if the plan of the Charter Commission is to consult with the Town's attorney along the way.

Laura Bolduc advised that the last Charter Commission put together the Charter, and then asked for a legal review at the end of the process, unless there were immediate questions.

Jerome Begert then mentioned about consulting the Maine School of Law.

Chair Ladakakos adjourned the meeting at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted.

**Kim McLaughlin
Town Clerk**

I, Kim McLaughlin, Town Clerk of Old Orchard Beach, do hereby certify that the foregoing document consisting of five pages (5) is a true copy of the original Minutes of the Charter Commission Meeting held December 22, 2009.

Kim M. McLaughlin