

SAUGUS CHARTER COMMISSION
APPROVED MEETING MINUTES
OF
FEBRUARY 12, 2009

The fifty-third meeting of the Saugus Charter Commission was held on Thursday, February 12, 2009. The meeting was held in the Town Hall Auditorium. The meeting was called to order by the Chairman, Peter Manoogian, at 6:45 P.M.

STEP 6: TEST AND EVALUATE

ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS

Six members of the nine member committee were present at roll call: Karen Cote, Eugene Decareau, Albert W. Diotte, Jr., Joan Fowler, Peter Manoogian, Sr., and Thomas Stewart.

The Chairman noted that there were more than enough for a quorum.

Debra Panetta arrived at 6:46 P.M.
Karla J. de Steuben arrived at 6:49 P.M.
Cam Cicolini arrived at 7:48 P.M.

The Chairman explained that the Meeting was starting early because some members of the community did not have a chance to participate in the January 24 Focus Group, specifically Ms. Malone and Mr. Castinetti. The Chairman thanked them for attending this evening's Meeting to give their observations, and ask questions, regarding the draft.

Selectman Steve Castinetti addressed the Members first. Areas discussed were the election process for the Select Board Chair, spring / staggered elections, and the possibility of cutting election costs with one polling place.

Ms. Malone, former School Committee Member, spoke next, addressing school committee issues, including three year terms and staggered elections, and the election of the School Committee Chair.

The Members and guests discussed the reason for the specific position of Select Board Chair and his / her duties.

With the discussion returning to annual elections, Ms. Malone suggested either the High School or Middle School as a central polling location, during April vacation.

Mr. Castinetti raised the question of town employees not being able to run for office. Discussion turned to the State Conflict of Interest Law, exemption of a town meeting format, and the inability to enforce local laws through the Ethics Commission. The Chairman also discussed the proposed restrictions of the licensing board.

Ms. Malone questioned the process for filling vacancies on the school committee, with no "runner-up" provision. The Chairman asked Mr. Curran to address this issue.

The Chairman asked the Clerk to start a list of "Issues to Revisit." (included at the end of the Minutes) with the first item being to revisit the issue of filling a vacancy on the School Committee and the Select Board.

Discussion continued with the Select Chair serving as a non-voting member of the School Committee, the timeline of the budget, the performance review of the Town Manager.

The Chairman thanked the guests for their participation in this evening's meeting, and their input on the proposed draft.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Michael Dockery, 38 Bristow Street, Town Meeting Member, Precinct 10, and Town employee addressed the Members. He stated his reasons for running for Town Meeting, and his concern about the proposed restrictions regarding town employees / elected offices.

READING OF MINUTES OF LAST MEETING (January 29, 2009)

Minutes were distributed to all Commission Members for review before the next meeting.

ACCEPTANCE OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

January 22, 2009

Ms. Cote made a motion to accept the minutes of January 22, 2009.

The Chairman seconded the motion.

The motion passed **9-0**

January 24, 2009

Ms. Cote made a motion to accept the minutes of January 22, 2009.

The Chairman seconded the motion.

The motion passed **9-0**

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

- **Update on procedural tasks**

The Chairman noted that he had heard from Mr. David Winder of the Saugus Advertiser that evening. Everything is on target for printing and distribution in the Advertiser on February 19th.

Copies of the Charter have been sent to the appropriate State Officials, and they are in contact with Mr. Curran. They have 28 days to respond to the Commission.

- **Meeting with Saugus Housing Authority 2-11-09**

The Chairman reported that he had met with the Saugus Housing Authority. They took a vote and requested that they continue to have 4 members, 4 year terms, with two coming up for re-election every two years, as is now, and the fifth member to remain appointed.

- **Saugus Our Town production (taped 2-7-09)**

The Chairman noted that Mr. Garabedian had provided all Members with a copy of the DVD from the television show, Saugus Our Town, that he and Ms. de Steuben had participated in. The Chairman thanked Janice Jarosz for hosting the show, discussing the city vs. town issue.

- **Chart of the Week – Saugus Advertiser**

This week's chart deals with fiscal procedures. The Chairman noted that he has the opportunity to create poster-size charts, and asked Members if they would like copies for outreach purposes. Members agreed that they would.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Mr. Decareau made a motion to approve a purchase order, ending in "9402" for the Saugus Advertiser for \$4,000 for printing and distribution of the Charter on February 19, 2009, to be paid upon the delivery of the service.

The Chairman seconded the motion.

The motion passed **9-0**

CORRESPONDENCE

- **E-Mail via Selectman Kelleher (carried over from January 29th)**

The Chairman read and email from Mr. Tingsly, a County Commissioner in Georgia, who had seen the Town of Saugus on the web, on the International City Manager's list service. He stated that it was nice to see a New England town moving towards professional management. He wished Members "good luck" with the charter change.

- **Correspondence from Mr. Huberman**

Mr. Huberman wrote, again, concerning the Personnel Board, and the possibility of re-instituting it.

Mr. Decareu made a motion to refer Mr. Huberman's letter to the Board of Selectmen.

The Chairman seconded the motion.

The motion passed **9-0**

NEW BUSINESS

- **Review comments from focus groups**

Members began reviewing the group questions / observations from the January 24th focus groups to formulate responses to be posted on the website, and look for additional items to list under "Areas to revisit."

Discussion began with the School Committee. It was noted that "filling vacancies" had already been put on the "Issues to Revisit" list.

Discussion continued with Town Assembly. Areas to revisit:

- Add language to 2-2(b) stating assembly president to step down when speaking on issue.
- 2-4, omit "compensation" (also for School Committee and Select Board)
- Include Ms. Malone's suggestion of consolidating polling locations by using school(s) during April vacation

A recess was called at 9:19pm

Meeting resumed at 9:37

Discussion resumed with Select Board. Area to revisit: Page 15, section (b), first line – delete "and clerk" and in the last line, delete "and another one of its members to serve as clerk of the select board"

Members will resume their discussion of group observations / questions at the next Meeting with Town Manager

- **Review preliminary draft for amendments / changes**

The Chairman noted an oversight (bottom of page 17) having to do with the manager appointing conservation agent, need to add “from a list of three names submitted by the conservation commission”

- **Set next meeting date(s)**

Members agreed to schedule their next meeting for Thursday, February 19, 2009, at 7:30pm in the Town Hall Auditorium.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None at this time.

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Cicolini moved to adjourn at 10:30 P.M.

The Chairman seconded the motion.

The motion passed **9-0**

APPROVED ON _____

SUBMITTED BY _____

Issues to Revisit

1. **Filling a vacancy on the School Committee and the Select Board, and the possibility of a “runner-up” provision**
2. **Add language to 2-2(b) stating assembly president to step down when speaking on issue.**
3. **In 2-4, omit “compensation” (also for School Committee and Select Board)**
4. **Consolidate polling locations by using school(s) during April vacation**
5. **Page 15, section (b), first line – delete “and clerk” and in the last line, delete “and another one of its members to serve as clerk of the select board”**
6. **(Bottom of page 17), need to add “from a list of three names submitted by the conservation commission”**