

Seekonk Town Charter Committee
Friday, June 9, 2017
Selectman's Meeting Room
Town Hall, 100 Peck Street, Seekonk, MA

1:00 p.m. Meeting called to Order
Present: Bob Richardson, David Saad, Kyle Laprade, Beth Eklund, John Alves,
Bob Blanchard, David Sullivan, Joyce Leven

Motion by David Saad to approve minutes from May 24.
Second by John Alves
All in Favor – Yes

Motion by David Sullivan to add numbers to the pages for the minutes
Second by Beth Eklund
All in Favor – Yes
Abstain – John Alves and Kyle Laprade

Old Business

- We are a Charter “Committee” not a “Commission”
- BOS can hold off to town meeting. 10 Signatures would allow to move to vote
- We will continue to move alone until we determine how the commission will resolve
- It was decided we will hold off on sending letter
- We will ask the question from the Department of Revenue
- David Saad: the Town Clerk is elected. Should be appointed
- Beth Eklund: the Asst. Town Clerk should live in town. The elected position allows for autonomy and should be a Seekonk Resident. Can the Asst. Clerk assume all duties should the Town Clerk be unable to?

Old Business Completed

New Business – The committee proceeded to review the charter and made comments and suggestions throughout. There were no decisions or votes made. This was an open discussion.

- Article 1 – there are 3-5 BOS (Board of Selectmen) 1 Town Administrator with an Open Meeting Forum
- Seekonk can become a city (13,000 population) but there is a limit on town size
- Attleboro runs as a city
- John Alves suggested we get a legal definition for Resolution
- Home Rule Charter – add “any amendments added to it”
- Days – calendar days means every day

Section 3 – Clerk of the Town Meeting

- Beth Eklund suggested addition to section about how the clerk is elected
- John Alves – minutes of meeting should include a brief description with questions
- David Sullivan – we must give report at next town meeting

Section 4 – General Powers

- Should we explain what a warrant is?
- Definitions area? (explain)
- Bob Richardson – Do we attach a second term?
- Second meeting – move to November or December
- “Piggy back” elections

Section 5 – Annual Meeting

- Anyone with a conflict of interest cannot be an elected officer or town moderator
- Make motions to absolve people
- Person must be a Seekonk resident

Additional discussion

- Add technology to the Charter for town meetings.
- Should be stated that we need to have budgets to boards in a more timely manner
- What is an appropriate date to get budgets to the finance committee? 60 days?
- Quorum? Review the last sentence
- Attendance of town officials –
- Special town meeting – 200 signatures do we change so that others do not jump on with less signatures?
- Referendum – Section 7, sentence 4 should state.

Cont'd...

- Article 3, Section 2
- Eligibility – no more than one elected office. Is there a conflict?
- Annual Town Election – bylaw conflict?
- Non-partisan –
- Precincts
- Recall of Elective Officers – change the wording in order to make it more clear. Add in “registered to vote” Do we reduce the number of voters?
- Special Election to fill a vacancy -