

August 30, 2016

Dear Residents of Sturbridge:

After a year of comprehensive scrutiny, we are pleased to submit to the residents of Sturbridge a draft of recommendations being considered by the 2015 Charter Review Committee for amendment of the Sturbridge Home Rule Charter. In approaching its task, the Committee found, during its initial reading of the Charter, numerous grammatical errors. Additionally, some of the Charter language seemed difficult to understand and ambiguous at points. The Committee also noted gender references throughout the document that did not seem appropriate in this day. While focusing on these concerns, the Committee met with Town officers, and members of Town boards and departments to seek their thoughts on the Town Charter. Those meetings resulted in suggested changes or additions to the document that the Committee discussed thoroughly. Where appropriate, many of those suggestions have been included in the draft document. Public input was welcomed as well with suggestion boxes in Town Hall and the Joshua Hyde Library.

It is the intent of the Charter Review Committee to hold a Public Hearing on the recommendations being considered. **Residents are invited to meet with the Charter Review Committee on Tuesday, October 4, 2016, in the Selectmen's Room at the Sturbridge Town Hall at 7:00 p.m.** Your thoughts and opinions will be appreciated as the Committee nears completion of its work and prepares for the submission of its final recommendations to the Sturbridge Selectmen.

Respectfully yours,

William Haggerty, Chair
Sandra Quigley Gibson, Vice Chair
Laurance Morrison, Clerk
Bruce Boyson
Paul Zapun