

## Town of Sturbridge

### Charter Review Committee

#### Meeting Minutes, October 21, 2015

Meeting convened at 6:36 pm in Town Hall Conference Room 2 by Chairperson William Haggerty. Present: Bruce Boyson (BB), William Haggerty (WH), Sandra Gibson-Quigley (SG-Q), Laurance Morrison (LM) and Paul Zapun (PZ) (arrived at 6:40 pm).

SG-Q moved, BB seconded acceptance of the minutes of October 7, 2015, as submitted. Passed 4-0.

WH reported that the meeting with the Town Administrator (TA) has been moved from November 4, 2015, to November 9, 2015, subject to confirmation with the TA.

Accepted was the offer of PZ to undertake the adjustment of the current Charter's text to eliminate all gender references and, thereby, also the section declaring the use of male pronouns as applicable to all persons.

It was agreed that the term "(R)registered voter(s)" is redundant, in light of the Charter's own definition of a voter as a person who is registered to vote in Sturbridge.

WH resumed (from the October 7, 2015, meeting) a line-by-line reading of the Charter, making possible, in orderly fashion, an initial discussion of the text that is designed to enable subsequent detailed Committee analyses prior to the formation of formal recommendations (a Committee work product), thus:

To render as consistent throughout all references to compensation, particularly pertaining to the Zoning Board of Appeals and the Recreation Committee; and

To learn the rationale for the election of some members of the Zoning Board of Appeals and the appointment of other members, notwithstanding Committee agreement that the current 'split' arrangement should remain ; and

To add in Section 4-2 (C) reference to "Harbor Commissioners"; and

To state as applicable in Section 4-4 "elementary" school committee, in keeping with usage in Section 4-5, with respect to "regional" school committee; and

To query the Town Clerk as to the seeming (nearly) duplicative consecutive sentences with respect to the recording of recall petitions stated in Section 4-12 (B); and

To query the Town Clerk as to the meaning of "without delay" as stated in Section 4-12 (C); and

To query the Town Clerk as to the meaning of "pending" as stated in Section 4-12 (G); and

To consider, in Section 5-1/second paragraph, with respect to the maximum duration of appointment of a temporary Town Administrator, to include the number and duration of any extensions of such an appointment, a change to an: initial period of up to six months and one further such appointment of up to three months; and

To learn the meaning of “full” in Section 5-3 (G).

It was agreed that suggestion boxes in which the public and Town staff may place signed or anonymous thoughts with respect to the Charter will be located by WH at the Library and Town Hall; the date of the actual placement of the boxes and the last date when such thoughts will be received via their use will be displayed on the boxes.

WH presented a comprehensive meeting schedule annotated to show the calendaring of meetings with Town staff and all elected and appointed boards, committees and commissions, and discussion resulted in a few adjustments. WH will send a clean revision to the Committee members.

BB moved, PZ seconded a motion to adjourn. Passed 5-0 at 8:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Laurance Morrison, Clerk