

## **Town of Sturbridge**

### **Charter Review Committee**

#### Meeting Minutes, May 11, 2016

Meeting convened at 6:34 pm in Town Hall Conference Room #2 by Chairperson William Haggerty. Present: William Haggerty (WH), Paul Zapun (PZ) and Larry Morrison (LM).

PZ moved, LM seconded a motion to accept the minutes of May 4, 2016, as submitted. BB arrived at 6:44 pm.

WH noted the receipt of the Policy on Appointment Procedures for the Board of Selectmen and the Town Administrator, written by Town Administrator Leon Gaumond. Reference to that policy can be found in the third paragraph of the Committee's minutes for its May 4, 2016, meeting, with respect to Charter provision 6-1(B).

The Committee resumed its line-by-line examination of the Charter by recalling its prior recommended deletion of Article 7, in its entirety, as an artifact of the Town's transformation, years ago, in employee supervision, initially from Selectmen's Secretary to Executive Secretary, then to Town Administrator. The deletion occasioned the re-numbering of the ensuing Articles by which, for example, Article 8 was re-numbered to Article 7, and thus, successively.

In turning to 8-5/ first paragraph (re-numbered as 7-5), the Committee agreed that BB and LM, working separately, will present versions at the next meeting for analysis. The aim is to settle on language describing, unambiguously, the meaning of the current "...the composition of the town meeting or the composition or mode of election or terms of office of the Board of Selectmen...".

Discussion of the usefulness of the current 5-year increment between the establishment of a Charter Review Committee in comparison with a 10-year increment concluded that the society-wide, technology-driven rate of change in institutions, like government, augur for retaining the current 5-year increment.

The current Article 9 was re-numbered as Article 8.

**Employing here the re-numbering:** 8-1 underwent slight word adjustments; add the words "or revisions thereto" after the word "Charter", and change the words "due course" to the word "operation," thus, "...by operation of law...". Also, recommend deletion of 8-2(A) and (B) as artifacts of a long ago transition, as per the similar reference, above. Further scrutiny resulted in the decision to recommend deletion of Article 8, except for 8-5, which was modified to add the word "revised" between the words "This" and "Charter," and numbered as 8-2, making it the final words of the Charter as it now stands as a work in progress.

WH and LM will coordinate their respective lists of topics for inclusion in a Memorandum of Findings to accompany the recommended Charter.

PZ moved, BB seconded a motion to adjourn at 8:02 pm. Passed 4-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Larry Morrison, Clerk