

Town of Sturbridge

Charter Review Committee

Meeting Minutes July 27, 2016

Meeting convened at 6:36 pm in Town Hall Conference Room #2 by Vice Chairperson Sandra Gibson-Quigley. Present: Paul Zapun (PZ), Sandra Gibson-Quigley (SG-Q), and Larry Morrison (LM).

PZ moved, SG-Q seconded a motion to approve the minutes of June 9, 2016, as submitted. Passed 3-0.

SG-Q reported that her discussion with the Director of Parks and Recreation with respect to the nature of events scheduled and the extent of Town property covered in that scheduling points to a Committee work-in-progress recommendation in the Charter text stating that the Parks and Recreation Commission's responsibility in that regard is "for all public recreation spaces."

The Committee resumed, at Section 4-11, its line-by-line, word-by-word scrutiny of its previous views reached in developing recommended revision and retention of language in the Town Charter. The method of scrutiny described in the minutes of June 9, 2016, was employed.

The Committee acknowledged receipt of an email, dated June 30, 2016, from the Town Administrator, with respect to reconciling Section 6-2 and Section 6-5(2) in light of appointments to three new positions: Economic Development/Tourism Coordinator, Facilities Coordinator, and Custodians. The Committee will take up that matter at its meeting on July 28, 2016.

The Committee also acknowledged receipt of an email, dated July 6, 2016, from the Town Moderator, with respect to whether to continue the election of the Town Clerk or to recommend that the officeholder be designated by appointment. The Committee resolved to await the arrival of an opinion it has sought from the Town Counsel as to whether a Charter Review Committee, as distinct from a Charter Review Commission, is empowered to provide a recommendation to elect or appoint, before the Committee addresses the matter.

The review of the Charter draft text ended at Section 5, and the Committee will resume at Section 6.

PZ moved, SG-Q seconded a motion to adjourn at 8:07 pm. Passed 3-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Larry Morrison, Clerk