

## **Town of Sturbridge**

### **Charter Review Committee**

#### Meeting Minutes August 22, 2016

Meeting convened at 6:42 pm in Town Hall Conference Room #2 by Chairperson William Haggerty. Present: Sandra Gibson-Quigley (SG-Q), Paul Zapun (PZ), Bruce Boyson (BB), William Haggerty (WH), and Larry Morrison (LM).

PZ moved, SG-Q seconded a motion to approve the minutes of July 28, 2016, as submitted. Passed 4-0-1 (WH).

Discussion began on whether to recommend that the Town Clerk remain an elected position or be changed to an appointed one. LM reported the request of the immediate past Town Clerk to be heard on that matter. It was agreed that LM would inform her of the Committee's public hearing, the date/time/place for which are to be determined. WH noted the Committee's receipt, via the Town Administrator, of Town Counsel's opinion that a Charter Review Committee, as distinct from a Charter Review Commission, is empowered to furnish a recommendation with respect to the elected or appointed status of the Town Clerk. Ensuing discussion disclosed the gamut of views, from: remain elected to change to appointed to ambivalence. Each committee member voiced a set of views. Mid-discussion, the Town Administrator entered the meeting, briefly, to announce the request of the Selectmen for a discussion with the Committee on the status of the Town Clerk. The Committee acknowledged the request; WH asked each member to submit, by August 26, 2016, directly to him only and not to one another, a list of reasons for one or another point of view, which he will compose for Committee review in preparation for the discussion requested.

WH led a review of Town Counsel's comments on the draft Charter, which was supplemented voluntarily by a review offered by another qualified source, and both reviews were discussed. Where the advice stated that a change in language was optional the Committee decided to leave the text unchanged. Where the advice called for specific changes, those changes were made. The two qualified reviews did not contradict one another. The revised draft was deemed completed, subject to comments, if any, in the public hearing and, potentially but not certainly, from the unscheduled discussion sought by the Selectmen.

PZ moved, BB seconded a motion to adjourn at 8:39 pm. Passed 5-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Larry Morrison, Clerk