

Charter Review Committee Meeting Minutes September 13, 2006

Agenda Attached

Convened: 7:00 P.M.

Members Present: Janet Loewenstein, Reuben Cook, Jerry Houk, Sara Robinson, and Liz Stansell

Members Absent: Robert Hankey

Public Participants: Dale Donovan, Ben Gitlow, Barbara Gray, Dawn Rickman, and Suzanne Thomas

Item 1: Minutes for August 1, 2006 Meeting

Motion to accept the August 1, 2006 minutes as presented (Sara Robinson).

Motion seconded (Jerry Houk).

Motion passed unanimously.

Item 2: Public Comment

Dale Donovan cited the significant personnel changes of the Committee, inadequate meeting minutes, and the difficulty in following the course of actions previously taken as the primary reasons for urging the new Committee to start fresh with the current Charter. In particular, he mentioned flaws in the reports submitted, contradictory explanations for changes, unavailable references, and meeting minutes that did not clearly state who made, seconded, and voted for motions. Starting fresh with the current Charter, rather than starting with the Charter that includes changes proposed by the former Committee, would alleviate these problems and make it easier for anyone to follow how and why each change to the Charter was made.

Liz Stansell expressed concern that it would be an unrealistic standard to include all of the Committee's discussions, work, and deliberations in the final product or to include every statement made during each meeting in the

meeting minutes. Meetings could be taped and the tapes made available to the public. Furthermore, the residents clearly wanted continuity with the original Charter Review Committee as the motion to totally change the Committee was defeated at the Town Meeting.

Suzanne Thomas indicated that it was unnecessary to record every statement made during each meeting, but that a minimum requirement would be to include the exact wording of each motion, who made and seconded the motion, and what the vote was.

Dale Donovan concurred with Suzanne Thomas about the motions and that minutia was not needed. However, the minutes should include what was discussed.

Ben Gitlow stated that adding attachments and references to the report would help clear up confusion and that the recommendations of the Committee could be improved. In addition, he suggested that the Committee members go through the Charter paragraph by paragraph and the proposed changes to make sure that the changes are accepted. If anyone disagrees or is unsatisfied with any change, then a minority report might be appropriate.

Barbara Gray noted that the previous minutes had not been done in customary form.

Dawn Rickman indicated that a roll call of members present should be included in the minutes.

Dale Donovan said he was not suggesting that any other committee be formed, just that the Committee should start fresh with the current Charter.

Ben Gitlow noted that recommendations made by the previous Committee included what had been changed, added, or deleted. However, the Committee now needs to go back and strengthen the reasons why specific changes were made and include minority reports, if needed.

Item 3: Committee Membership and Officials

Jerry Houk indicated that there is a conflict concerning Article 18 and the designation of Committee members. Also, there is no Town Moderator at

the present time. As a result, in addition to Ben Gitlow no longer serving on the Committee, Jerry Houk thought that both he and Robert Hankey should not be serving on the Committee either. Thus, he excused himself from the Committee table.

Item 4: Other Business

Reuben Cook stated that all members should have the current Charter marked with the changes proposed by the previous Committee.

Item 5: Next Meeting

The next two meeting times are: October 4, 2006 and October 17, 2006.

Item 6: Further Public Comment

Ben Gitlow indicated that a tentative arrangement to discuss the Articles of the Town Meeting with Harry Terkanian would be helpful.

Dawn Rickman reminded the Committee that someone needs to come to the office to post the meeting times.

Adjourned: 7:43 P.M.

Minutes approved on: October 4, 2006