



Town Of Webster

Est. 1832

Massachusetts

Charter Review Committee

350 Main Street
Webster, MA 01570

Earl Gabor, Chairman
Andrew Jolda, Vice Chairman
Ted Avlas, Recording Secretary
Robert Craver
Pamela Leduc

Lee Ann Majercik
Thomas Ralph
Will Starzec

Town of Webster
Charter Review Committee
Open Session Minutes (M.G.L. C.39)
Wednesday February 22, 5:30pm
Board of Selectmen's Meeting Room
Town Hall, Webster, MA 01570

In Attendance:

Ted Avlas
Earl Gabor
Pam Leduc
Lee Ann Majercik
Andrew Jolda
Robert Craver
Thomas Ralph

Absent:

Will Starzec

Also:

Doug Willardson
Lauren Goldberg

1. Call to Order:

Chairman Gabor called the meeting or order at 5:35pm

- Approval of minutes held over to next meeting.
- Review of Comments from Legal Council

The Committee reviewed the comments provided by Attorney Goldberg.

- Section 2-1 – Change wording to “all registered voters in the Town of Webster”.
Approved LG recommendation A7 to remove language
- Section 2-5 - Reinstate original 2-5-A
- Section 2-5-e - LG A9 - to provide language
Approve LG A10 to eliminate language
Approve LG A11 to eliminate language
- Section 3-1 a - LG A13 & A14 – to provide language
- Section 3-1-b - LG A15 approve recommendation to eliminate language.
- Section 3-1-f-2 LG A17 approve to change to “a quorum of members present as long as the BOS have a quorum.
- Section 3-1-g-3 Approve LG recommendations
- Section 3-1-g-4 LG A18 approve recommendations
- Section 3-1-g-5 Approve LG recommendations
- Section 3-1-g-6 Approve LG recommendations
- Section 3-1-g-7 Approve LG recommendations – to provide language
- Section 4-2-c LG A29 approve recommendations
- Section 4-2-n LG A34 approved recommendations
- Section 4-4 LG A35 to provide new language
Motion to eliminate last line of new language
Ms. Leduc
Mr. Jolda second
Unanimous
- Section 4-5 LG A35 approve recommendation to eliminate all language and insert new language as provided under 4-5
- Section 5-3 LG A37 approve recommendations
- Section 5-4-b LG A40 approve recommendations.
- Section 6-1-a LG A41 deny recommendations

Mr. Avlas left the meeting at 7:00pm.

Mr. Jolda now taking notes

Section 6-3 – Attorney Goldberg stated she will provide revised language for this section

Section 2-5 – Section was discussed concerning who can place items on the town meeting warrant. Attorney Goldberg will provide revised language to clarify who can. Discussion was over Town Official vs Town Officer.

Section 3-1 (f)2 – Legal counsel will insert revised language into this section to define what a failure to elect means

Section 7-8 – Attorney Goldberg led a discussion on section 7-8 in regards to suspension and removal of employees. Section was discussed because Committee opted to remove section 4-5 of Charter and replace it with new language. Attorney Goldberg will provide revised language for the committee to review for this section

Section 7-9 – Discussion was led by Attorney Goldberg on quorums, composition of multiple member bodies, and section 7-9(a). Attorney Goldberg mentioned revising language to ensure compatibility with Open meeting laws. She will revise language and provide it to the committee.

Section 7-10 and 7-11 – Attorney Goldberg led a discussion on excessive absences and the remedies available to provide accountability based upon whether individuals were appointed or elected. Attorney Goldberg will provide revised language to the board for consideration

Section 7-12 – Attorney Goldberg clarified her remarks regarding this section by stating that the Attorney General would not get involved in charter enforcement. A discussion was held taking in the concerns of the board. Attorney Goldberg will provide revised language that conveys the intent of the committee to provide some guidance on what may be possible

Committee held a discussion on what the next steps going forward would be for the Charter Review Committee. Attorney Goldberg explained the options available to having the new charter approved. Options presented were Town Meeting vote and special act of legislation; Town Meeting vote subject to ballot vote.

The Committee set its next meeting to Wednesday March 15th, 2017

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Earl Gabor and seconded by Tom Ralph, Sr.

Vote was unanimous.

Meeting adjourned at 8:54 PM