Town of Wellfleet

Charter Review Committee

Meeting Minutes

December 8, 2017

Wellfleet Town Hall, Basement Meeting Room Present: Harry Terkanian, Barbara Cary, Helen Miranda Wilson, Denny O’Connell, Deborah Freeman , Roger Putnam, Paul Cullity, Dan Silverman

The meeting of the Charter Review Committee (“CRC”) was called to order at 1:00 p.m. by Chairperson Deborah Freeman.

It was moved, seconded and VOTED 6-0 to accept the Minutes of the CRC meeting of November 17, 2017, as amended. (Paul Cullity was out of the room at the time the vote was taken.)

Discussion

Town Moderator Dan Silverman joined the CRC meeting to discuss the most efficient approach to presenting the Charter revisions for approval at next Annual Town Meeting. It will be important to identify any potential controversy and provide opportunity for discussion before the Town Meeting, and to this end the final revised draft will be distributed as soon as possible to the Selectboard (with a request to be added to an up-coming agenda), the Town Administrator (the CRC will Request that he post the revision on the Town website), the Clerk, Town Counsel, and all Town Committees. The CRC will also explore posting on the Wellfleet Community Space Facebook Page. The CRC will also ask the Wellfleet Community Forum to host a meeting to discuss the changes. While the objective is to have as much buy-in as possible prior to the Town Meeting, in the event any aspect of the revisions proves to be controversial, it may be appropriate to separate the section or sections into a separate article or articles on the warrant to expedite voting at the Town Meeting.

* It was moved, seconded and VOTED 7-0 that the final draft of the Charter will be distributed with the Summary and explanatory comments currently being worked on by Debbie Freeman.
* Helen Miranda Wilson will alert the Town Administrator about this next step, and Dennis O’Connell will be responsible for contacting Town committees.

The CRC next returned to its final review and proofreading of the most recent draft, which had been prepared by Helen Miranda Wilson, based largely on the *Chicago Style Guide*. The discussion was focused on editing style and format

* It was moved, seconded and VOTED 5-2 to delete subsection (c) under Chapter 2, TOWN MEETING, Section 2-2, Presiding Officer, subsection 2-2-3.
* It was moved, seconded and VOTED 6-1 to capitalize the term “post office” in subsection 2-3-2 and throughout the Charter.
* It was moved, seconded and VOTED 7-0 to delete the words “for distribution” in Section 2-6, Annual Meeting, subsection 2-6-4
* It was moved, seconded and VOTED 7-0 to delete Section 2-8, Town Meeting Committees, subsection 2-8-4, and add the text at the end of subsection 2-8-2. Subsection 2-8-2 will read as follows:

All ad hoc committees created by a Town Meeting shall make a verbal report at the next Town Meeting that occurs at least six months after a quorum of the committee is appointed. Such report shall serve to discharge any such committee, unless the Town Meeting shall vote to extend its existence for a period not exceeding one year. Written copies of such reports shall be submitted to the Town Clerk and to the Town Administrator, and shall be published in the next *Annual Town Report.*

* It was moved, seconded and VOTED 7-0 to delete the words “and orders” from Chapter 3, SELECTBOARD, Section 3-2 Policy Leadership Responsibilities, subsection 3-2-2.
* Helen Miranda Wilson moved that the following language be added to Section 3-5, Specific Powers, Duties and Responsibilities, as a new subsection:

*The Selectboard shall act as the regulatory board for shellfishing as specified in MGL Chapter 130.*

The motion was seconded and lost, 3-3-1.

The next meeting of the CRC will be held December 15, 2017, at 2:00 p.m. in the Basement Meeting Room of the Wellfleet Town Hall. The agenda will include continuing discussion of the final draft changes to the Charter, starting at subsection 3-5-3, as well as review of the draft of the CRC Report for the *Annual Town Report* to be prepared by Deborah Freeman.

It was moved, seconded and VOTED 7-0 that the Meeting be adjourned at 3:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Cary

Clerk