

Charter Review Committee
Meeting Minutes for April 4, 2016

Meeting Location: Lower level Town Hall Room A
Meeting Time: 7:00 pm

Members in attendance: Alexis Christopher, KG Narayana, Steve Greenberg, Joe Magnani, Ken Rush, Roberta Soolman
Absent: Betsy Emberley

1. Welcome and Introductions

Roberta welcome everyone and called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

2. Approval of Minutes

Roberta advised the other members that Betsy was unable to attend tonight's meeting and that additional meeting minutes recorded by Betsy will be provided to us for review at our next meeting (TBD).

3. Review of Input from January Public Forums

There were general comments made by several CRC members regarding the prior public forums held by the committee in seeking input from the public. There seemed to be a recurring theme from the answers generated by our questionnaires: change the Board of Health and Library Trustees from elected to appointed positions.

The health agent and library director serve under two masters: their respective board and the town manager.

Lack of registered voters' attendance at town meetings was discussed which lead to a broader discussion on the potential change in the form of the current town government.

Roberta asked members for their opinions regarding the major issues concerning charter change. After each member gave their thoughts, it was decided that Roberta would develop a matrix which will assist everyone in dealing with the many concerns from the public. Upon the completion of the matrix, Roberta will send it out to all members for us to pick issues which interest us and research how other towns deal with these issues.

4. Meeting with the Collins Center at UMass/Boston

Roberta discussed with the committee the need to meet with Michael Ward from the Collins Center to assist us in our efforts to research answers to the many questions raised by committee members as well as the general public. After a brief discussion, it would appear that a meeting with a representative from the Collins Center would be best sometime in June. Roberta also discussed the reply from the Collins Center to several questions submitted by Roberta on behalf the committee. All members were emailed the responses. Steve Greenberg noted most of the answers provided appeared to be common answers used as template information, and not deeply researched.

5. Other Business

There was no other business.

6. Next Meeting:

Next scheduled meeting will be April 26th @ 7pm, Town Hall Lower Level, Meeting Room A.

A motion to adjourn was made by Steve Greenberg, seconded by Alexis Christopher and voted 6-0-0 at 8:42 p.m.

Minutes submitted by,
Joe Magnani

Please note: these notes minutes a representation of the actions and discussion at the Charter Review Committee meeting and are not a verbatim transcript.