

ASHLAND CHARTER REVIEW COMMITTEE MINUTES

August 2, 2016

Ashland Town Hall – Room A

Members present: Betsy Emberley (Betsy), KG Narayana (KG), Joe Magnani (Joe), Roberta Soolman (Roberta), Alexis Christopher, (Alexis), Steve Greenberg (Steve)

Guests: None

Call to order: 7:09 p.m.

1. Welcome and Introductions

Roberta welcomed everyone. She informed us that there have been three additional public records requests made by the same individual since our last meeting.

2. Approval of minutes

March 21, 2016: Steve moved, Alexis seconded, motion passed 7-0-0

April 4, 2016: Steve moved, KG seconded, motion passed 6-0-1 (Betsy was absent)

May 11, 2016: KG moved, Ken seconded, motion passed, 6-0-1 (Joe was absent)

June 8, 2016: KG moved, Steve seconded, motion passed, 6-0-1 (Betsy was absent)

July 11, 2016: Steve moved, Alexis seconded, motion passed, 5-0-2 (KG and Joe were absent)

July 20, 2016: KG moved, Steve seconded, motion passed, 6-0-1 (Ken was absent)

July 27, 2016: KG moved, Steve seconded, motion passed, 6-0-1 (Ken was absent)

July 29, 2016: KG moved, Betsy seconded, motion passed, 4-0-3 (Ken, Steve, and Alexis were absent)

3. Review of feedback received from online resident survey and town staff to date

Betsy will ensure that there are boxes at Town Hall and the library along with copies of both the Charter and the Resident Questionnaire. She will also ask Paul Carpenter to add the August 31st deadline to the phrasing for the Charter Review Committee webpage link to the survey on Town website, and she'll post the link again on the Facebook Ashland Bulletin Board.

4. Next steps with The Collins Center

Roberta read the contract aloud. Steve moved to approve the professional service agreement as written by the Collins Center, KG seconded, motion passed, 7-0-0.

The contract was signed by the Director of the Collins Center, Stephen McGoldrick. After Michael Herbert signs it, Roberta will scan it and send it to the Collins Center, so they can have it signed by Ellen O'Connor, Vice Chancellor for Administration and Finance at UMass/Boston.

5. Other business

We selected potential dates and times for remaining staff interviews. Roberta will reach out to see if the staff is available.

Alexis conveyed some concern about comments made by a resident in response to the survey, as they appear to believe the Charter should be written in as much detail as the bylaws. Discussion of previous versions of the Charter ensued.

We discussed our expected timeline. Alexis moved to authorize Charter Review Committee Chair Roberta Soolman to request an extension of our committee's work through June 30, 2017 from the Board of Selectmen, pending guidance from Town Counsel as to the proper process and language, KG seconded, motion passed, 7-0-0.

6. Next meeting: August 15th at 9 am, as long as staff is available for interview.

7. Adjourn: KG moved, Joe seconded, motion passed, 7-0-0, 8:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted by
Betsy Emberley, Secretary

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