

# Ashland Charter Review Committee Agenda

January 31, 2017

## Town Hall -- Meeting Room A

Members present: Chairman Roberta Soolman (Roberta), Vice Chairman Ken Rush (Ken), Joe Magnani (Joe), Steve Greenberg (Steve), KG Narayana (KG), Alexis Christopher (Alexis), Secretary Betsy Emberley (Betsy)

Members absent: None

Guests: None

Residents: Carl Hakansson (present during part of agenda item #3)

Call to order: 7:02 pm

- 1. Welcome:** Roberta welcomed everyone.
- 2. Approval of minutes from January 23, 2017:** Steve moved, Betsy seconded, the motion passed 7-0-0.
- 3. Vote on committee recommendations for Town Charter, Parts 1 through 9**

**Part 1:** We recommended no changes.

**Part 2:**

Section 2-1: We will check the definition of "open meeting" and revisit.

Sections 2-2 through 2-5: We recommended no changes.

**Part 3:**

Section 3-1: If any changes are made to other sections under Part 3 to change an elected board to an appointed board, this section will need to be re-visited.

Section 3-2: After discussion, Alexis moved, and Steve seconded to add a subsection (f) stating that "*No member of the board of selectmen can concurrently hold any other elected town position.*" Motion passed 7-0-0.

The committee agreed to double-check other charters, Ethics Commission rulings and check with Town Counsel regarding whether or not members of the Board of Selectmen should be allowed to hold a position on an appointed board or committee.

Re the issue of the Board of Selectmen being the Water or Sewer Commissioners, Section 235-2 of the Town Bylaws designate the Board of Selectmen as Sewer Commissioners, and we decided to defer any designation of the Board of Selectmen as Water Commissioners also to bylaws.

Section 3-3: We recommended no changes.

Section 3-4: Re sub-section (a), a motion was made by Alexis and seconded by Steve to extend the term of the Town Moderator from one to three years for sub-section. Motion passed 5-2-0 (Ken and KG were opposed).

Re sub-section (b), we recommended no changes.

Alexis moved and Steve seconded to add a sub-section (c) stating that *"In making these appointments, the Town Moderator shall follow the appointment process outlined in Section 8-xx."* (will specify sub-section after we complete the review of Part 8). Motion passed, 6-0-1 (Ken abstained).

Section 3-5: Steve made a motion that the Board of Health be an appointed board, Ken seconded and motion passed, 5-2-0 (Roberta and KG opposed).

Sections 3-6 through 3-8: We recommended no changes.

Section 3-9: This section is mandated by state law and cannot be changed.

**4. Next meeting:** February 2, 2017

**Adjourn:** Joe moved, KG seconded, motion passed 7-0-0, to adjourn at 9:44 pm.

Respectfully submitted by,  
Betsy Emberley

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

**Documents referenced:**

- Ashland Town Charter with Notes for 2016/2017 Recommendations as of 1/31/17
- 1/23/2017 CRC Minutes
- State Ethics Commission Explanation of Conflict of Interest Law
- Ashland Public Schools School Committee Policy Manual
- Collins Center Memorandum 02 Addendum
- MAHB Wellesley Town Gov Slides