

Ashland Charter Review Committee Minutes

February 2, 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: None

Call to order: 7:06 pm

1. Welcome: Roberta welcomed everyone.

2. Approval of minutes from January 31, 2017: KG moved, Betsy seconded, motion passed 7-0-0.

3. Vote on committee recommendations for Town Charter, Parts 1 through 9

Part 3:

3-4: A brief discussion occurred about the Town Moderator holding any other Town office, elected or appointed. Further discussion ensued at length regarding Selectmen being appointed to other boards and committees. Betsy moved to add a sentence to the end of Section 3-4 (a) "He shall not hold any other town office, elected or appointed." KG seconded. Motion passed: 7-0-0.

3-10: We agreed to add a Section 3-10 based on wording from the Charter from The Town of Andover regarding Multiple Offices. Ken will draft wording and bring it to the next meeting.

Part 4:

4-1: We recommended no changes.

4-2: Betsy moved that we change the number of voter signatures required for recall affidavit from 500 to 150. KG seconded. Motion passed 7-0-0.

Steve moved to lower the percentage of voters required for the recall petition from 25% to 15%, KG seconded. Motion passed 7-0-0.

KG moved to increase the number of days required to collect petition signatures from 20 to 28, Alexis seconded. Motion passed 7-0-0.

4-3: KG moved to change the number of days after the Town Clerk's certification of the petition signatures for the Board of Selectmen to order a recall election, if the officer being recalled does not resign, from not more than 90 to 65, Alexis seconded. Motion passed 7-0-0.

Alexis moved for the recall election to be postponed if one is already scheduled within 120 days of the Town Clerk's certification of the petition signatures for the recall election, which is an increase from the current 100. KG seconded. Discussion ensued. Motion did not pass 1-6-0 (Alexis was required to vote in the affirmative as she made the motion and declined to withdraw it).

4-4 and 4-5: Roberta will get suggested language from the Collins Center.

4-6: Steve moved that we change to 2/3 to a majority and add 15%, Joe seconded. Motion passed 6-1-0 (KG voted no).

4-7: KG moved to strike the language "No recall affidavit shall be filed against an officer within 180 days after taking office nor", Alexis seconded. Motion passed 7-0-0.

4-8: Ken will draft a revision of the language as well as sentence to consider which would prohibit a recalled official from being appointed to the same office within a certain amount of time.

4. Next meeting: February 9, 2017

Adjourn: Alexis moved, KG seconded, motion passed 7-0-0, 9:59 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 used:

- Ashland Town Charter with Notes for 2016/2017 Recommendations as of 1/31/17
- 1/31/2017 CRC Minutes
- Charter Review Committee 2015: Sections From Other Town Charters
- Charter Review Committee 2015: Sections From Other Town Charters 02
- State Ethics Commission Explanation of Conflict of Interest Law
- Town of Ashland Bylaws
- Charter Review Committee minutes from 12/15/2016
- Charter Review Committee minutes from 12/5/2016