

ASHLAND CHARTER REVIEW COMMITTEE MINUTES

April 25th, 2018

Ashland Town Hall – Room A

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

Guests: None

Residents: None

Call to order: 7:01 p.m.

1. Welcome Roberta welcomed everyone and thanked them for making time to meet.

2. Approve minutes of January 30, 2018 Steve moved to approve as amended to include Public Records Request decision from the State's Public Records Division dated January 24, 2018, KG seconded, motion passed 6-0-1. Betsy abstained as she was not present at that meeting.

3. Review of Warrant Articles 25-33, including changes made by Town Counsel:

Roberta explained that the purpose of today's meeting is an fyi, so we're prepared for discussion at Town Meeting.

- Section 3-9(c) to clarify that the finance committee members can serve on a finance committee subcommittee

The language we used was convoluted, and the revised phrasing is more concise. The new wording is fine with everyone, although it is no longer our decision.

- Section 8-1(b) to clarify the Town Moderator's compliance with the appointment process

Roberta explained that she worked with Town Counsel to tweak this language to ensure it aligns legally.

- Section 8-2(c) regarding removal from office and code of conduct

Roberta explained that two Town Counsel attorneys, Lisa Mead and Kate Federoff, had concerns about the language. She worked with them to modify it so to eliminate the phrase "just cause".

- Section 8-3(b) reference to section 8-1(f)

Roberta explained the language of this was edited by Town Counsel Lisa Mead to make it more clear.

4. Review of process for Town Meeting on May 8

Roberta explained that she met with Assistant Town Manager Jennifer Ball and Steve Mitchell, who is the selectman who will be responsible for introducing the Warrant articles relevant to the recommended Charter changes, to discuss the process for introducing the articles. There is one article for each section of the Charter which included recommended changes. Steve Mitchell will go article by article and explain the changes. The Town Moderator has indicated that the only written amendments which can be accepted on Town Meeting floor are those that fall within the four corners and were mentioned at the July 26th public hearing held by the Board of Selectmen.

5. Open Meeting Law complaint decision from the Office of the Attorney General dated April 4, 2018 regarding an Open Meeting Law complaint filed by Stephen Morgan dated January 25, 2018

Roberta distributed a copy of the decision; there was no discussion.

6. Thanks and appreciation

Roberta expressed her appreciation for all the hard and long work we did well. Members thanked her as well.

Approval of Today's Committee Minutes (April 25, 2018) Members reviewed today's minutes, finishing at 8:42 pm. KG moved to approve the minutes as presented by Betsy Emberley, Alexis seconded, motion passed 7-0-0.

Adjourn: KG moved, Steve seconded, motion passed 7-0-0, 8:43 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 Charter Review Committee DRAFT Minutes, January 30, 2018
- Town of Ashland Charter 2018 Final Changes
- Town of Ashland Charter 2018 Tracked Changes to Show Final Version
- 2018 Annual Town Meeting Document April 11, 2018
- Open Meeting Law complaint decision from the Office of the Attorney General dated April 4, 2018