

Harvard Charter Commission
Meeting Minutes
July 27, 2017
Upper Town Hall

Members present: Paul Cohen (Chair), Rick Maiore, Sharon McCarthy, George McKenna, Stephanie Opalka, Ron Ostberg, Cindy Russo, Peter Warren. Absent: Charles Redinger.

Paul Cohen called the meeting to order at 3:35 p.m. and the commissioners approved the 7/18 minutes as submitted.

The commissioners reviewed the 7/20 draft of the charter and agreed on several editing points that were inconsistent in the draft. For example, they replaced “multiple member bodies” with “agencies,” resolved capitalization questions, and reviewed the format of Massachusetts General Law citations, which Cindy Russo will rewrite.

Discussion followed about the conflict between “Section 3-2: Select Board 2) Manage the Executive Branch (e) Appointing Authority” and “Section 4-3: (Town Administrator) Duties and Responsibilities – Hiring” as to who has the hiring and appointing authority for town employees and volunteer agencies.

After discussion, the commissioners agreed that the Select Board would hire or appoint the Town Administrator, Town Counsel, Finance Director/Town Accountant, Town Constable, all members of non-elected boards, and other non-elected committees and employees. The Fire Chief and Police Chief would continue to be hired by the Select Board under specific statutes.

The Town Administrator would hire or appoint people for all other non-school positions and, along with the Personnel Board, advise the Select Board on hiring decisions.

Ron Ostberg and Stephanie Opalka discussed their versions of the charter statement of intent. Paul said that both versions could be used in different ways, which still need to be decided. Ron and Stephanie will review their versions for discussion at the next meeting.

Also at the next meeting, a newly revised draft will be discussed.

The next meeting will be Wednesday, August 9, at 3:30 p.m. in the Town Hall meeting room.

Paul adjourned the meeting at 5:45 p.m.

Laura Andrews, Recorder