

Harvard Charter Commission

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, June 16th, 2016

Board Members present: Paul Cohen (Chair), Peter Warren, Rick Maiore, Sharon McCarthy, Charles Redinger, Cindy Russo, George McKenna

Also present: John Giger, Charter Review Committee: Town of Groton

This meeting was called to order at 7:35

Discussion – John Giger, member of the Groton Charter Commission kindly attended the meeting to answer questions and assist the Harvard Charter Committee with ideas, strategy and ways of moving forward efficiently. John offered information regarding Groton's experience with changes in town government relative to the roles and responsibilities, specifically those of the Town Manager as well as the Board of Selectmen.

Mr. Giger answered questions regarding process and expressed the importance of continued education and communication with committees and town members.

Discussion – Mr. Cohen stressed a Draft Charter is necessary to move forward and the Committee must address the concerns of the 40 people who attended the initial meeting. Ms McCarthy mentioned the importance of reaching out to the town boards to build a collaborative working environment. Mr. Redinger stressed the need for uniformity. All agreed.

Time Line for Draft Charter – Mr. Cohen recommended Committee members work in parallel to close the existing gaps in the draft charter. All agreed.

Article 4 – Mr. Warren & Ms. Russo

Article 5 – Ms McCarthy & Mr. Redinger

Article 6 – Mr. Maiore & Mr. McKenna

Mr. Cohen also suggested committee members take on self education regarding similar town charters to help define what truly belongs or does not belong in the charter, looking at the trends of similar towns (Auburn) was also suggested.

Ms. McCarthy proposed to adopt the Selectmen remote access policy. Mr. Redinger 2nd. All voted aye.

ADJOURNE! 9:15