



Charter Commission

Administration Building
149 Main Street
Watertown, MA 02472
Phone: 617-972-6470

MINUTES

Commissioners:

Mark S. Sideris,
Chair

Stephen P. Corbett
Michael Donham
John A. Donohue
Dennis J. Duff
Susan G. Falkoff
Anthony Palomba
Rhiana Kohl
Angeline B. Kounelis
Cecilia Lenk
Pamela Piantedosi
Vincent J. Piccirilli, Jr.
John J. Lawn, Jr.
David Siegel
Athelia Tilson

CHARTER COMMISSION MEETING TUESDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2010 @ 7:00 PM RICHARD E. MASTRANGELO CHAMBER ADMINISTRATION BUILDING

1. ROLL CALL: A regular meeting of the Charter Commission was called to order at 7:00 pm, in the Richard E. Mastrangelo Council Chamber, Administration Building. Present for the meeting were Commissioners Stephen P. Corbett, Michael Donham, Dennis J. Duff, Susan G. Falkoff, Anthony Palomba, Rhiana Kohl, Angeline B. Kounelis, Cecilia Lenk, Pamela Piantedosi, Vincent J. Piccirilli, Jr., David Siegel, Athelia Tilson and Mark S. Sideris. Commissioner Lawn arrived after the call of the roll and Commissioner Donohue was absent.

2. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES: November 30th. Commissioner Duff moved the minutes as written, seconded by Commissioner Tilson. Commissioner Kounelis requested a correction her to statement on page 2. The Chair Tabled the minutes pending an amendment.

3. Review Of Article 9 as it relates to Transitional Provisions.

There was a lengthy discussion of several small paragraphs in Article 9 with consensus being that the transition of the town's government has long been over and that the paragraphs should be referred to Attorney Reich for his opinion on their relevance.

Article 9-1 Continuation of Existing Laws, Etc. Commissioner Piantedosi stated that perhaps the paragraph was not applicable.

Commissioner Siegel noted that he would be reluctant to just remove it as it could have unintended consequences and that an opinion by the Town Attorney should be solicited.

The Chair stated that Article 9-2 Continuation of Government and Administration should also be referred to Attorney Reich to improve the language.

The Chair also stated that Article 9-3 Transfer of Records and Property should be referred as well as the transition of the government is long over.

Commissioner Piccirilli noted that Article 9-6 Temporary Administrative Code was substantially re-written in 2001 by the Charter Commission.

Commissioner Falkoff stated that perhaps a few sentences could replace several sections of Article 9 explaining that there was a transition of government.

Commissioner Kounelis stated that recently an appointment was made to the Commission on Disability by the Manager. She noted that an [opinion](#) was rendered by Attorney Reich upon her request. She stated that nowhere in the Charter or the Council Rules does it state that the Manager has the authority to make this appointment and that the procedure regarding the appointment process for the Commission on Disability should be addressed in the Charter for clarification.

Commissioner Kohl and Piccirilli stated that we should not get into too many specifics within the Charter and become boxed into a corner.

Commissioner Corbett concurred and stated that changes to the appointment process can be made through an ordinance adopted by the Town Council.

Commissioner Piantedosi stated that she does not see that there is an issue as state law mandates that the appointing authority in this case is the Chief Executive Officer, which is the Manager.

4. NEW BUSINESS: The Chair indicated that he would like Commissioners to think about what changes they would like to propose and begin the process of putting them in writing. Commissioner Palomba indicated that he would like to propose a January 7th deadline outlined in the time-line he had previously distributed. He further indicated that prior to any votes by the Commission, he would like to see the major proposed changes publicized in the newspaper with a date advertised so that the public can attend and weigh in on the matter.

The Chair indicated that he will ask Attorney Reich for a legal written opinion on the relevance of Article 9 and have it forwarded by the end of the week.

The Chair stated that it would be prudent to cancel the previously scheduled December 21st meeting so that Commissioners can concentrate on preparing their proposed changes. The Chair indicated that on January 4th the Commission can continue reviewing miscellaneous items in the Charter; with all proposed changes being forwarded to the Clerk by January 7th as proposed by Commissioner Palomba.

Burt Greenberg, Duff Street – thanked the Commissioners for their thoughtful and thorough examination of the Charter.

5. **ADJOURNMENT – 9:00 pm.** Commissioner Duff moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 pm, seconded by Commissioner Donham and adopted by voice vote with Commissioners Stephen P. Corbett, Michael Donham, Dennis J. Duff, Susan G. Falkoff, Anthony Palomba, Rhiana Kohl, Angeline B. Kounelis, Cecilia Lenk, Pamela Piantedosi, Vincent J. Piccirilli, Jr., John J. Lawn, Jr., David Siegel, Athelia Tilson and Mark S. Sideris voting in the affirmative.

At a regular meeting of the Charter Commission, the above minutes were adopted by unanimous voice vote on January 4, 2011.

Mark S. Sideris, Council President