

**Town of Watertown  
Charter Review Committee  
Via Zoom  
Tuesday, October 6, 2020  
6:00 – 8:00 p.m.**

**M I N U T E S**

**Committee Members Present:** Mark Sideris (Council President), Vincent Piccirilli (Vice President), Caroline Bays, Marcia Ciro, Anthony Donato, Lisa Feltner, Anne Fitzpatrick, John Gannon, Jon Hecht, Angeline Kounelis, Leo Martin, Jim Mello, Bill Oates, Anthony Palomba, Kenneth Woodland

**Committee Members Absent:** None

**Invited Guests:** John Flynn, Town Clerk; Lauren F. Goldberg, KP Law

**1. Call to Order**

President Sideris called the Charter Review Committee to order at 6:00 p.m.

**2. Swearing-In of Appointed Committee Members**

Town Clerk, John Flynn, presided over the swearing-in of the Charter Review Committee members via Zoom. Mark Sideris instructed committee members to stop by the Town Clerk's office to officially sign in/register and to pick up their copy of the charter book.

Mark Sideris set a few "ground rules" for the current meeting and future meetings: The format would be like that of Town Council meetings. There would be time for public questions/comments (speakers should identify themselves by name and address, and should limit speaking time to two-to-three minutes). Committee members and invited guests should use the "raise hand" function and wait their turn to speak.

Councilor Piccirilli provided a recap of the [Charter Review process and provided a copy a red lined copy of the 2011 Charter Review changes.](#)

**3. Presentation of Charter Review Process – Town Attorney Lauren F. Goldberg, KP Law**

Attorney Goldberg gave a PowerPoint presentation of the charter review process. She referred to a town charter as the "constitution of municipality." She also reinforced the importance of adhering to open meeting law rules and informed the committee on the more recent issue of gender usage language.

Caroline Bays requested that the PowerPoint presentation be shared on the Charter Review Commission web page.

#### **4. Scheduling of Future Meetings**

Mark Sideris announced that the next meeting would be held on October 20, 2020, via Zoom. He noted that the Collins Center would be assisting with the charter review process, as needed. Ken Woodland asked from what budget the Collins Center's services would be paid, and Mark Sideris responded that that issue was being considered by the Town Manager. He also noted that there would be no meeting on election night, November 3, 2020.

Lisa Feltner asked who would be taking the meeting minutes for the committee and Mark Sideris answered that Anne Korte would be taking and preparing the minutes.

#### **5. Adjournment**

Prior to adjournment, Mark Sideris stated that this first meeting was an introduction to the charter review process and that he did not want to rush the process. He also thanked all the residents who had applied to serve on the committee and welcomed the six who were chosen to serve on the committee: Marcia Ciro, Anne Fitzpatrick, Jon Hecht, Leo Martin, Jim Mello, and Bill Oates. He, then, gave each one an opportunity to introduce themselves.

Bill Oates introduced himself as an almost lifelong Watertown resident, who was an elected official for the Watertown Board of Health, Town Council, School Committee, and the CIO section committee. In addition, he had served on the Boston Mayor Menino's Cabinet and as CIO for Massachusetts Governor Deval Patrick. He has also worked in the private sector as an attorney and management consultant.

Jon Hecht introduced himself as a former town councilor, member of the state legislature/state representative, and attorney.

Anne Fitzpatrick introduced herself as a 15-year resident of Watertown, in the Victory Field neighborhood, a lover of Watertown, and a proponent of dog parks.

Jim Mello introduced himself as a lifelong Watertown resident, who was the youngest elected member of Town Meeting form of government. He had also served as a Planning Board member, Councilor-at-Large, and a "yes" vote on the original town charter. In the private sector, he was the owner of Copy & Print for many years.

Marcia Ciro introduced herself as a Watertown resident for most of her adult life and a behind-the-scenes volunteer. She mentioned that she had been thinking about the charter and charter review for the past few years.

Leo Martin introduced himself as a Watertown resident for 42-plus years. He stated he had been very involved with Watertown youth sports and school PTOs, as well as a variety of behind-the-scenes volunteer work. He has served on the Conservation Commission for 23 years.

After the introductions, Mark Sideris thanked Lauren Goldberg for her presentation and for attending the meeting.

Mark Sideris asked for a motion to adjourn. Vinnie Piccirilli made a motion to adjourn. A roll call was taken – Jim Mello, Marcia Ciro, Anthony Donato, Caroline Bays, Leo Martin, Bill Oates, John Gannon, Angeline Kounelis, Tony Palomba, Ken Woodland, Jon Hecht, Lisa Feltner, Anne Fitzpatrick, Mark Sideris, and Vinnie Piccirilli – and all answered in favor to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 7:59 p.m.