

CHARTER & BYLAW REVIEW COMMITTEE

10 MECHANIC STREET BELLINGHAM, MASSACHUSETTS 02019

Charter and Bylaw Review Committee Meeting Minutes – May 10, 2023

The May 10, 2023, meeting of the Charter and Bylaw Review Committee was called to order by Chairman Martinis at 5:30PM with Mr. Sposato, Mrs. Garten, Mrs. Grant and Mr. OConnell in person and Mr. Salisbury, Mr. Collamati, and Mrs. Altomonte attending via zoom. Interim Town Administrator, Beth Cornell-Smith, was also in attendance.

Attorney Goldberg had previously provided the Committee with a red-lined version reflecting her comments on the Town Charter and the changes proposed by the Committee. The Committee had previously reviewed these edits in detail at the January 23, 2023, meeting.

Chairman Martinis stated that the reason for this meeting was review the charter one more time and to review and consider language edits and changes regarding section 4 Town Administrator. At this point the red-line document was shared on the Arcand screens so those in attendance could view Atty Goldberg notes and committee proposed changes. More specifically, sections 4-3-1, 2, and 3. There were questions and clarification asked for, with respect to “Acting” or “Temporary” Town Administrator. It was suggested that we use Temporary Acting.

Concern was brought up by citizen D. Rainieri. His opinion was that there should be a public hearing prior to the charter changes being brought to the town meeting. Member Mr. O’Connell wondered why we were rushing. Chairman Martinis reminded Mr. Rainieri that the committee has been meeting for two years and the charter was already supposed to have been on the November 2022 town meeting, but at the time the committee determined that it would be best to just move forward with bylaw changes and review charter changes one more time in January. The bylaw changes were passed without question in Nov 2022. Mr. Rainieri disagreed. The committee came up with a compromise to provide “red-lined” charter copies and clean charter copies to the public at the town meeting as well as posting both documents to the town website.

After much discussion, Mrs. Garten called the vote, and it was seconded by Mrs. Grant. The committee voted 7 -1 to proceed with presenting the charter changes at the town meeting.

Mrs. Grant made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Garten to provide “red-lined” charter copies and clean charter copies to the public at the town meeting. The committee voted in favor 7-1.

Mrs. Garten made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Mrs. Grant. Committee voted 8-0 and adjourned at 6:37p