



CHARTER & BYLAW REVIEW COMMITTEE

10 MECHANIC STREET BELLINGHAM, MASSACHUSETTS 02019

Charter and Bylaw Review Committee Meeting Minutes – May 9, 2022

The May 9th meeting of the Charter and Bylaw Review Committee was called to order by Chairman Martinis at 5:15PM with Mrs. Grant, Mr. Sposato, Mr. Collamati, Mrs. Altomonte, Mr. O'Connell and Mr. Salisbury in attendance. Town Administrator, Denis Fraine, was also in attendance.

Mr. Martinis explained the Committee had not completed the review of Bylaw Chapter 205 "Town Meeting". Mr. Sposato suggested the committee approve the red line changes which incorporate the changes consistent with the automated voting. Mr. Sposato explained the Town now uses the "Pol Pad" for sign in at Town Meeting and Town elections, however some form of identification continues to be required.

Mr. Salisbury expressed his disagreement with changing the polling hours. Mr. Salisbury believes the hours should be a minimum of eight as stated in the Bylaws. Mr. Sposato expressed his opinion the minimum hours should be reduced to four hours, which is consistent with Mass General Law. Mr. Sposato explained there are uncontested elections which draw very small turnout and hours should be reduced for such elections. Mrs. Garten agreed that reducing the polling hours could limit the ability of some residents to vote. Mr. Sposato suggested we adopt language which simply states the polling hours will comply with MGL and not state a specific number. Mr. Salisbury expressed his view the numbers should stay as written. At 5:45 Mr. Salisbury departed for a previous commitment. Mr. Martinis stated the Committee would take no action on this matter until the next meeting when Mr. Salisbury is present

On a Grant/Garten motion the Committee unanimously voted to adopt the changes as presented with exception of Article 205-1B which will be reviewed at the June 6th meeting.

On a Garten/ Sposato motion the Committee voted to adjourn at 5:55pm.

Respectfully Submitted

Denis C. Fraine