

Charter Review Committee Meeting Minutes
January 18 at 7:00PM
Room A15, Longmeadow High School Administrative Building
Approved as corrected at the 1/23/18 meeting

Attendees: Tass Angelides, Peter Landon, David Martel, Arlene Miller, Gerry Nolet, and Larry Starr.

Chairman Martel called the meeting to order at 7:07PM.

- A. Public Comment: There were no comments offered by the public.
- B. Approval of minutes from the last meeting: Mr. Nolet moved and Dr. Angelides seconded a motion to accept the minutes from the December 5th meeting as presented. The motion passed unanimously.
- C. The Chair offered that our goal at this meeting was to begin a page-by-page review of Articles 1-4 of the Charter. All agreed that we would note changes to be made and well as a “B” list of sections in the By Laws that relate and should be looked at by the Select Board for consistency and relevance.
 1. Article 1: After some discussion of this article, all agreed there was not much that should be changed. However, Mr. Starr proposed that we change the “name” of the document from Town of Longmeadow Home Rule Charter to Longmeadow Town Charter. Mr. Starr offered a motion to reflect that suggestion. There was no second to the motion.
 2. Article 2:
 - a. 2-1: Open Town Meeting: All observed that there are redundancies between the Charter and the Town By Laws regarding the Open Town Meeting: There was discussion about whether the Charter or By laws should be more detailed about the Open Town Meeting. The consensus was to leave the details to the By Laws since those are easier to modify.
 - b. 2-4: No change recommended.
 - c. 2-5a: Agreed by consensus to insert “most recent edition of “ before Town Meeting Time.
 - d. 2-5b: All OK.
 - e. 2-8: Mr. Martel offered to review the Open Meeting Law to inform us about details discussed in this section. Members agreed that we need to better define the location of the “town bulletin board”. It was agreed by consensus to add ”and town web-site” after town bulletin board.
 - f. 2-9: There was some discussion and a bit of confusion related to this section. It was acknowledged that this verbiage was included in the Charter as a “fail safe” mechanism in the event that an unusual, very odd or detrimental outcome were to result from a Town meeting. This is a form of checks and balances against a stacked Town Meeting vote. It ultimately allows the citizens of Longmeadow recourse to over-turn a Town Meeting decision in certain circumstances by forcing a ballot decision. Members agreed by consensus to leave this section alone.
 - g. 2-10a: There was considerable discussion about this. Should the moderator have the sole responsibility to appoint this committee? Should one person have that responsibility? The group agreed to hold comments on this section pending further information and discussion.
 - h. 2-10b: All agreed to hold off on this section and wait for written ideas to be presented by Mr. Landon.
 - i. 2-10c. A motion was made by Mr. Starr and seconded by Mr. Angelides to add the words “elected” member of any board, deleting “whether elected or appointed”. The motion passes 4-2 with Miller and Martel voting against it.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45PM.

Respectfully submitted by Arlene C. Miller