

CHARTER REVIEW COMMITTEE (CRC) MEETING

May 21, 2024 Town Hall – Ropewalk Room 6PM

Committee Members Present:; Alan Costello, Vice Chair (Zoom); Betty Cavacco (Zoom), Joseph Hutchinson, Len Levin, Laurence Pizer, Martha Vautrain (Zoom), Steve Bolotin (associate),)

Tonight's Committee: The first order of business was the reorganization of the committee caused by the election of the Chair, David Golden, to the Select Board and the resignation of the Clerk, Robert Zupperoli. Given the vacancies, Steve Bolotin and Michael Hanlon were elevated to full voting members.

Both Larry Pizer and Alan Costello were nominated as Chair, and Alan Costello won on a 4-3 vote. That left the position of Vice-Chair open, and Steve Bolotin was nominated for that position and voted in unanimously. Len Levin was nominated for Clerk and again there was no contest.

(Note: Ms. Vautrain, who called in from her grandson's graduation, had to leave the call.)

Public Comment:

None

Renumbering of the Charter:

Because the Committee moved around a number of sections in the Charter, it will need to be renumbered. Following Mr. Pizer's suggestion that a small committee tackle this chore, he, Mr. Levin, Mr. Costello and Mr. Bolotin were chosen to undertake this task. The renumbering group may also entertain grouping existing sections into whole new sections. For example, it has been decided to put all charter-created committees in a new Section 8, but should the same thing be done for statutorily created committees?
(Note: Mr. Pizer had to leave the meeting.)

Timeline through Fall Town Meeting:

It has been the aim of this committee to have the revisions ready for fall Town Meeting although there is no legal imperative to do so. The Warrant closes on August 9th, but Ms. Cavacco suggested that the Committee could ask the Select Board to put a "placeholder" in the warrant if the document is not finalized by then. When the Committee has finished renumbering, the revised Charter will need to go to Town Counsel for review. The Committee will need to work with Town Counsel to break the Charter into separate "chunks" (or Articles) for voting at Town Meeting.

Department of Communications and Community Engagement:

Mr. Hutchinson, long a champion of better communications and community engagement from the town, proposed a new section to the Charter, Department of Communications/Community Engagement. Ms. Cavacco replied that we are in the

middle of hiring a Director of Communications, and that it is up to the Town Manager and the new hire to shape that department. The Committee agreed with Ms. Cavacco so the suggestion was not entertained.

Respectfully submitted,
Lyle Lawrence

When the minutes of this meeting have been approved, they will be available at plymouth-ma.gov website. Go to the Government tab, click Agendas and Minutes, scroll down to and click Charter Review Committee, look to the right and click the minutes icon.