

Town Charter Committee

October 10, 2024



Committee met in HYBRID session at 6:30 p.m. at Abbot Hall, 188 Washington Street

The Chair called the meeting of October 10, 2024 to order. On a roll call vote the committee voted as follows: Drinker, present; Ferrante, remote; Danforth, present; Grenier, present; Hourihan, present; Massaro, present; Miller, present; Zisson, present; Conly, present; Kezer, present. The Chair announced that the meeting is utilizing a webinar platform and anyone wishing to speak at public comment should raise their hand to be acknowledged by the Chair.

Minutes. No minutes to approve.

Discussion with Department Heads. Thatcher Kezer introduced Chief Gilliland, Andrew Petty, Board of Health Director and Amy McHugh, DPW Director and Water/Sewer Superintendent. The Chair welcomed all and stated the committee will ask a group of questions related to how each board or commission is currently structured, their budgeting process and finances and what, if any, restructuring or realigning they would recommend. Amy McHugh stated she is attending in her role as DPW Director. A lengthy discussion followed with the Department Heads and Committee Members.

Review of Charter Language The committee also discussed the development of a municipal charter for Marblehead, addressing the lack of consistency in format and content among existing town charters, and the need for a clear and comprehensive source of information about how the town operates. Sean Casey recommended that the TCC continue to slot in language it has drafted and suggested the committee meet with the Collins Center at a future meeting to review questions and thoughts the committee has with some of the frameworks provided.

Public Forum. Amy Danforth and Tom Massaro provided an overview of a draft for the public forum to be held on Tuesday, October 22, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. at Abbot Hall and via Zoom. The committee agreed that the content was good and made suggestions on the order of the agenda and agreed to include a section on the status and next steps of the Charter Committee in their presentation. The presentation will be updated and sent out to committee members for review. Ron Grenier volunteered to document the questions asked at the public forum. The press release will be sent out to various media sources and the town website.

Public Comment. None.

Scheduling / Meeting Dates.

Next Meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 22, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. The Board of Health will be in attendance.

Public Forum will be held on Tuesday, October 22, 2024, at 7:00 p.m. at Abbot Hall and via Zoom.

Due to the holidays the Committee will meet as follows: November 14, 2024, and December 12, 2024. The Committee will most likely add a 3rd meeting to their regular January schedule.

Motion made to adjourn at 8:55 p.m. Moved by Zisson, seconded by Miller. On a roll call vote the Committee voted as follows: Ferrante, in favor; Massaro, in favor; Wild, in favor; Zisson, in favor; Conly, in favor; Hourihan, in favor; Grenier, in favor; Casey, in favor; Danforth, in favor; Miller, in favor; Drinker, in favor; Kezer, in favor.



Kyle A. Wiley, Administrative Clerk

List of documents used: Public Forum PowerPoint presentation / narrative