

Town Charter Committee

March 13, 2025



Committee met in HYBRID session at 6:30 p.m. at Abbot Hall, 188 Washington Street
The Chair called the meeting of March 13, 2025, to order.

The following committee members were present constituting a quorum:

Amy Drinker, Chair	Seamus Hourihan
Rosanna Ferrante, Vice Chair, arrived 6:50pm	Sean Casey
Jim Zisson	Caleb Miller, absent
Ron Grenier	Tom Massaro
Bill Conly, absent	Victor Wild, arrived 6:40 pm
Thatcher W. Kezer III, Town Administrator, staff support	

The Chair announced that the meeting is utilizing a webinar platform and is being recorded.

Minutes. Motion made and seconded to approve the minutes of February 13, 2025 and February 25, 2025. Committee voted in favor with Seamus Hourihan abstaining.

Boards/Committees/Commissions, discussion. The following boards, committees and commissions joined the Charter Committee for discussion and the opportunity to answer questions from the Committee regarding the current structure of their department, delivery of services, budget process and to allow for the opportunity to discuss any suggestions or recommendations:

Design Review Board: Ed Nilsson, Doug Jones. The role of the Design Review Board is to advise on aesthetics for the B1 district (Pleasant Street area) in Marblehead. The Board has no enforcement authority but provides recommendations on signage and facade changes for non-residential properties. The board members expressed their interest in updating the sign bylaws and the need for a larger, more diverse membership and the potential to expand their purview to include multi-family residential projects in the future.

Discussion on Draft A, continued. The Committee continued its review of Draft A, starting at Article 5, Elected Boards, Committees and Commissions, section 5.1. In reviewing section 5.3, the Committee had a lengthy discussion on the transfer station and whether or not it should be specifically referenced in the Charter. On an informal poll the Committee was split on this idea. The Committee will revisit this issue again during its review process.

Public Forum. The Chair spoke briefly about venue options for the committee's public forums and suggested consideration of venues that allowed for hybrid options. The Vice Chair noted that if multiple forums are held at a variety of times and locations, some that would be hybrid, the meetings would reach a broad base of people. The Chair and Vice Chair will write up a proposal for future public forums for the committee to consider at its next meeting.

Housekeeping items. The Chair reviewed the various boards and committees that she will work with to invite to attend a future meeting.

Public Comment. None

Next Meeting Date. Tuesday, March 25, 2025, 6:30 p.m.

Motion made and seconded to adjourn at 8:34 p.m. All in favor.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kyle A. Wiley". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Kyle A. Wiley, Administrative Clerk

List of documents used: Draft A, January 25, 2025/Committee holds