

## Town Charter Committee

March 25, 2025



Committee met in HYBRID session at 6:30 p.m. at Abbot Hall, 188 Washington Street  
The Chair called the meeting of March 25, 2025, to order.

The following committee members were present constituting a quorum:

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

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

**Minutes.** March 13 meeting minutes will be voted on at the next meeting.

**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:

**Board of Registrars:** Margaret Herrick, Tim Swigor, Robin Michaud and Tony Chamay. The Board stated that their roles and positions are mandated by MA general law and that their current structure is working effectively and they collaborate closely with the Town Clerk's office. They discussed the challenges faced during large elections, such as processing mail-in ballots. The Board members also shared their experiences with term changes and the process of filling vacant positions. The conversation ended with a discussion on the balance of party representation on the Board.

**Disabilities Commission.** Laurie Blaisdell, Chair. The Disabilities Commission, appointed by the Select Board, delivers services to the community through various channels including meetings, websites, and social media. The commission works closely with the building department on accessibility issues. Discussion was had around the roles of the Disabilities Commission and the town's ADA Coordinator, which is a required position by statute to address accessibility complaints and ensure compliance. The commission has received several state grants for accessibility projects, including a recent \$92,000 grant to improve accessibility at Devereaux Beach. The commission does not have a budget but receives funds from handicap parking violation tickets, which are used for educational purposes and equipment for fire and police departments.

**Board of Health. Transfer Station.** Andrew Petty, Public Health Director, appeared before the Charter Committee to advise the Committee that at a meeting of the Board of Health on March

12 board members wished to convey to the Charter Committee that the Waste Department, which consists of the Transfer Station, curbside collection of trash and recycling, should continue to stay under the control of the Board of Health with the proposed Charter.

**Discussion on Draft A, continued.** The Committee continued their review of Draft A reviewing all holds put on by committee members starting with Article 5.4, Cemetery Commission and ending with 5.11, Water and Sewer Commission. Sean Casey will make revisions to the draft Charter as discussed. The Committee members will review Articles 6 and 7 and send holds to the Chair ahead of the next meeting on April 10, 2025.

**Public Forum.** The committee discussed plans for upcoming public forums to present their charter work. It discussed holding three different types of meetings in late May: an in-person session at the Council on Aging, a hybrid meeting, and an all-online meeting. These will be held at different times of day to accommodate various schedules. The committee aims to experiment with different formats to see what works best for engaging the public. It also plans to provide some background information and context about the charter process at the start of each forum, while balancing the need to hear from as many residents as possible.

**Public Comment.** None

**Next Meeting Date.** Thursday, April 10, 2025. 6:30 p.m.

Motion made and seconded to adjourn at 8:26 p.m. All in favor.



Kyle A. Wiley, Administrative Clerk

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