

## Town Charter Committee January 9, 2025



Committee met in HYBRID session at 6:00 p.m. at Abbot Hall, 188 Washington Street

The Chair called the meeting of January 9, 2025, to order.

On a roll call vote the following committee members were present constituting a quorum:

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

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

The Chair received notification from Amy Danforth on her resignation from the Committee due to her schedule and personnel obligations. The Chair expressed thanks for her service and wished her well.

**Minutes.** Motion made and seconded to approve the minutes of December 12, 2024. Moved by Ron Grenier, seconded by Jim Zisson. On a roll call vote the Committee voted as follows: Casey, in favor; Conly, in favor; Grenier, in favor; Hourihan, in favor; Miller, in favor; Zisson, in favor; Wild, in favor; Drinker, in favor.

**Department Heads discussion.** The following Departments 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:

- Aleesha Benjamin, Chief Financial Officer
- Alex Eitler, Town Planner
- Todd Laramie, Assistant Assessor
- Thomas Howard, HR Director
- Dennis King, Police Chief
- Peter James, Recreation and Parks Superintendent
- Jamie Block, Director of Recreation

**Housekeeping items.** The Chair noted that she attended the Select Board meeting on January 8, 2025, to provide them with an update on the Charter Committee's process and progress. The Select Board voted to allow the Charter Committee to make a brief presentation at Annual Town Meeting on May 5, 2025.

**Charter Language Review.** Sean Casey gave a brief update on the status of the first Charter Draft A. Strategy was discussed around how the Committee will review the Charter Draft and how the Charter Draft will be presented for public consideration. Sean is working to have the draft ready

before the Committee's January 28, 2025, meeting. Ron Grenier volunteered to draft options to Article 6 of the Draft Charter. The Charter Draft will be posted to the website as well.

**Department Heads discussion (continued).**

The following Departments 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:

Lisa Hooper, Council of Aging

Mark Souza, Harbormaster

Cathy Kobialka, Cemetery Superintendent

The Committee briefly discussed other boards and committees they would ask to a future meeting. The Chair will coordinate this schedule.

**Public Comment.** Erin Noonan, Select Board Chair, expressed her appreciation to all the Department Heads who came prepared to speak with the Committee and thanked the Charter Committee for its dedicated work, acknowledging the unique skill set and background that each member brings to the Charter Committee.

Next Meeting Date. January 23, 2025, 6:00 p.m.

Motion made and seconded to adjourn at 8:47 p.m. Moved by Grenier seconded by Hourihan. On a polled vote the Committee voted as follows: Ferrante, in favor; Casey, in favor; Conly, in favor; Grenier, in favor; Hourihan, in favor; Miller, in favor; Wild, in favor; Zisson, in favor; Drinker, in favor.



Kyle A. Wiley  
Administrative Clerk

List of documents used: 2025/01/09 Quick Update / January 9, 2025 Memo