

December 9, 2024

TCC fact-finding and status of language drafting for the Marblehead charter

A) At present, the Town Charter Committee (TCC) continues its fact-finding phase of the charter development process. This includes review of other Commonwealth town charters, dialog with the Collins Center*, and meeting with Marblehead department heads, appointed/elected committees, board, and commissions in order to hear answers to four questions and better understand how departments operate.

- 1) Does the current structure of your department allow you to effectively deliver services to the community?*
- 2) Does the current budgeting process effectively meet the needs of your department?*
- 3) Would you suggest any re-structuring/re-alignment of your department?*
- 4) Any other suggestions?*

B) At the same time, initial charter language is being drafted by members of the TCC who have volunteered their expertise for this significant work. The TCC has discussed general guidelines for the drafters to follow. The Collins Center has provided answers to technical questions; they will review draft charter language at a later date.

C) The preliminary draft charter document will be ready for TCC discussion starting in late January, 2025. At that time the document, along with introductory notes, will be posted on the TCC web page for public access. <https://www.marblehead.org/town-charter-committee>

D) In order to allow sufficient time for consideration of all issues, and engagement with the public, the TCC has reached a consensus that a draft charter will not be ready for consideration by the Select Board until the spring of 2026, with subsequent presentation of the charter to voters at May 2026 town meeting.

E) In May 2025, the TCC will present a report to town meeting on the progress of the charter initiative.

* The Edward J. Collins, Jr. Center for Public Management at the University of Massachusetts/Boston is an advisory resource for the TCC as it works to create a charter document for Marblehead voters' consideration. In the spring of 2024 the Marblehead Select Board, using available American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds, contracted with the Collins Center to advise the TCC in the formulation of a Marblehead charter document.

<https://www.umb.edu/cpm/services/#Charter>