

# Town Charter Committee

October 28, 2025



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

The Chair called the meeting of October 28, 2025, to order.

Amy Drinker, Chair	Seamus Hourihan
Rossana Ferrante, Vice Chair, remote	Sean Casey, absent
Caleb Miller	Ron Grenier
Tom Massaro	Victor Wild

Thatcher W. Kezer III, Town Administrator, staff support, remote

**Minutes.** Motion made to approve the minutes of September 23, 2025, and October 9, 2025. Moved by Miller, seconded by Massaro. On a roll call vote the Board voted as follows: Ferrante, in favor; Grenier, in favor; Hourihan, in favor; Miller, in favor; Massaro, in favor; Drinker, in favor.

**Collins Center Feedback on Draft B Language.** The Chair noted that the Select Board reviewed the Town's contract with the Collins Center at their previous meeting. The Collins Center will provide the outstanding deliverables as outlined in their contract with the Town. If there is need for additional services moving forward, as part of the original agreement, a provision is provided to engage services on an as-needed hourly basis. The Chair has submitted a memo to the Collins Center asking them to provide feedback on four questions related to the proposed recall provision and potential conflicts with existing laws by November 14, 2025.

**Charter Timeline. Update.** The committee reviewed a revised timeline due to Sean Casey's temporary leave from the charter committee. In a memo to the Committee the Chair stated *"Sean remains an integral part of the Charter Committee. His contributions include the development of charter language, his expertise regarding town bylaws and Mass General Law, the careful tracking of edits, charter version alignment and notations, explanations and discussions with the Charter Committee. A willingness to research the town's past practices and cite source materials, engage with entities to address their feedback and his collegial work ethic. The fidelity of the Charter's language is a direct result of his role in its development and ongoing revisions."* Given that Sean will be on temporary leave the Chair proposed pausing deliberations through November and resume meeting in December with a revised timeline to submit the Charter to the Select Board.

Victor Wild joined the meeting.

The Chair will continue to analyze feedback from entities received by October 24, 2025, and the committee will tentatively begin its review Articles 6 and 7 in December. The committee will continue meeting regularly to complete their review as soon as possible. The Chair anticipates submitting the Charter to the Select Board by March 2026, with an article to be placed on the May 2027 Town Meeting Warrant and then brought to a potential town-wide vote in June 2028. The delay in submitting the warrant article to Town Meeting will have little impact on the State

Legislature review process since their new session starts in 2027. The committee supported the proposed timeline as presented. The Chair will notify the Select Board of the revised timeline.

**Charter Article Revisions.** The Chair stated that she is still waiting for feedback to be submitted from some groups and will use this time to sort, review and compile what they have received to date.

**Executive Summary.** The Chair will revise the Executive Summary to reflect the change in the Charter timeline and post this to the town's website.

**Housekeeping and Communication.**

Community Outreach planned for February to May 2026 is currently on hold, as the Charter will not appear on the warrant for town meeting until May 2027. The committee will consult with the Select Board about how to assist with socialization efforts at that time.

**Public Comment.** None.

**Next Meeting Date.** Thursday, December 11, 2025. 6:00 p.m.

Motion made to adjourn at 6:19 p.m. Moved by Ferrante, seconded by Grenier. On a polled vote the Committee voted as follows: Ferrante, in favor; Grenier, in favor; Hourihan, in favor; Massaro, in favor; Miller, in favor; Wild, in favor; Drinker, in favor.



Kyle A. Wiley, Administrative Clerk

List of documents used: Memo to Collins Center / memo to Charter Committee on timeline / Executive Summary updated