

Town Charter Committee

January 15, 2026



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

The Chair called the meeting of January 15, 2026, to order.

On a roll call vote the following members were present:

Amy Drinker, Chair

Rossana Ferrante, Vice Chair,

Ron Grenier

Tom Massaro

Thatcher W. Kezer III, Town Administrator, Ex Officio

Seamus Hourihan, remote

Caleb Miller, absent

Victor Wild

Minutes. Motion made to approve the minutes of December 11, 2025. Moved by Massaro, seconded by Ferrante. On a roll call vote the Board voted as follows: Ferrante, in favor; Grenier, in favor; Hourihan, in favor; Massaro, in favor; Wild, in favor; Drinker, in favor.

Executive Summary Timeline

The Chair reviewed the proposed language update, version 8 to the Executive Summary Timeline. Number 7 on the revised timeline notes that the committee will keep working on revisions to Draft B, then develop Draft C to present to the Select Board as well as a standalone recall section. This work should be finished, tentatively, by the end of April. In the spring of 2027, the Select Board will organize public forums to answer community questions about the Charter, if they intend to go forward placing a warrant article on the May 2027 Annual Town Meeting Warrant.

Review of Drafting Charter Language

Ms. Ferrante opened the discussion to the Charter Committee's overall approach to drafting charter language. In reviewing the Select Board feedback, and what the committee has learned in the past year and a half, she proposed broadening the charter's approach to balance educational documentation with flexibility for future changes. She feels that broader language in some areas of the Charter may be better because it won't restrict the Town from making operational changes. A lengthy discussion followed around the structure and the language of the Charter. The Chair stated she would like to continue with the process the Committee has followed to date and will take the Select Board's comments into consideration within the structure that has been developed as the Committee continues review of Draft B stating that she feels that for the committee to change its approach right now is not fair to the deliberative process the committee has used in developing Draft A and B. The committee could decide to delete certain sections which would bring the committee into alignment with the Select Board's preference for Charter sections. Draft C, upon completion, will be submitted to the Select Board who will determine how they decide to move forward.

Select Board Feedback on Draft B

The committee reviewed Select Board feedback on Draft B and discussed at length the level of detail appropriate for the town charter regarding committees and their descriptions, ultimately deciding to seek further legal clarification before resolving these questions.

Charter Draft Review and Feedback

The committee reviewed steps needed before creating Draft C, including reviewing Select Board and Town Counsel feedback, reviewing Articles 6 and 7, and aligning language across the charter. The committee also discussed the potential implications of including appointed boards in the charter.

Questions for Town Counsel / Collins Center

After review of Draft B, the Chair asked committee members to send any questions they have for Town Counsel and the Collins Center to her by next week.

Public Comment.

Amy McHugh addressed the committee regarding its discussion on which boards and committees would be included in the Charter, asking if the Charter does not list a board that has been set up by town meeting does that immediately remove that board? The Chair clarified that is not the intention of their discussion and this will be addressed at a future meeting.

Mr. Wild, who could not attend the last committee meeting, acknowledged the passing of Sean Casey and noted Sean's magnificent job in developing the Charter, along with the Chair, stating he will truly be missed by all.

Next Meeting Date. Tuesday, January 27, 2026. 6:00 p.m. A representative from the Collins Center will be in attendance to review draft documents and answer questions for the committee.

Motion made to adjourn at 9:09 p.m. Moved by Ferrante, seconded by Massaro. On a polled vote the Committee voted as follows: Ferrante, in favor; Massaro, in favor; Grenier, in favor; Hourihan, in favor; Wild, in favor; Drinker, in favor.



Kyle A. Wiley
Administrative Clerk

List of documents used: Select Board Feedback on Draft Charter / Executive Summary v8. / 1.12.26 Memo to Charter Committee / 11.12.25 Collins Center memo