

NORTH SMITHFIELD

CHARTER REVIEW COMMISSION

September 22, 2016

NORTH SMITHFIELD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

CAFETERIA

2214 PROVIDENCE PIKE

7:00 PM

Minutes

I. Call to Order

Paul Vadenais called to order the regular meeting of the North Smithfield Charter Review Commission at 7:03 on September 22, 2016 at North Smithfield Elementary School Meeting called to order:

7:02PM

II. Roll Call

Tracey Nangle conducted a roll call. The following persons were present: Paul Vadenais, Tony Guertin, Terri Bartomioli, Carol Drainville, Larry Forti, and Peg Votta

Christine Charest – not in attendance

III. Approval of Minutes from Last Meeting

Motion made by Peg Votta, seconded by Carol Drainville.

Unanimous approval

Motion to waive the rules and move Items 1, 2, 3, & 4 under New

Business up for immediate consideration by Tony Guertin and seconded by Tracey Nangle, unanimously approved.

IV. New Business

1. Discussion with Town Clerk in regards to Article II Elections and Article IX Town Clerk

Discussion with Town Clerk: Debra Todd

Article II: Elections:

Article II (b): We need more specific reasons for a recall, no reason given now

If you say just cause, you need to somehow define what that means – list some but not limited to that – there is something in charter about removing a department head and perhaps we could refer to that?

Also, the current language requires that signers of a petition for recall must have signed exactly as their name appears on the Board of Canvassers, this should not be a requirement so long as the signers can be confirmed as voters

Board of Canvassers: Would like to suggest that we have two alternates for the Board of Canvassers – hard to have everyone you need there

Paul Vadenais asked about Elections: Sec. 1. Districts – we have one district, should we have more than one? She thinks one district works. Paul asked if representation would be more evenly disbursed throughout town that way. Deb referred to the fact that we don't always have many running as it is.

No input under Town Clerk section from Deb (p 32)

Paul Vadenais asked about the 42 amendments that were done in 2010 and 13 in 2014. Deb said some of the amendments were caused by others so that caused the total number to be larger.

Discussed the words “shall” and “may” as they appear in the existing charter and that this CRC will need to confer with the town solicitor after reviewing all instances.

Probate Court: Deb says there are time when the probate judge has to recuse himself. Currently says the solicitor can take over but there are some solicitors who don't do probate. Asked if there could be a provision that there be an alternate probate judge appointed so Deb has someone to call on in these instances.

Boards and Commissions: This section is not consistent across boards. Some say you have to be a resident, some don't. Suggested we standardize somewhat.

Officers and Commissions – we don't have some of these things – Sargent, etc. We have to review and eliminate those that don't actually exist.

2. Discussion with Budget Committee Chairperson in regards to Article VIII: The Budget

Discussion with Budget Committee Chairperson: Beth Faricy (sp?)

Beth said Article VIII relates to Article III – they contradict each other and she said it has been determined that Article III prevails. She

recommended we look at revising/rewording.

Discussion regarding the timeline for the budget process currently specified in the charter. CRC has discussed that an effort to find a more workable timeline should be considered.

Beth suggested that there might be another additional power added to the TC's powers (Section 8. Powers) – that they shall have the authority to merge or consolidate common duties, functions and services of any agency or department of the Town of North Smithfield, including the North Smithfield Sewer Commission and the North Smithfield School Department.

Capital Planning Committee should be formed to create a 5 year plan that gets updated and extended one more year out each year. Separate from the Budget Committee. She referred to other towns that have this type of committee comprised of 9 members that represent town departments, schools, etc.

Beth asked if we are looking at Town Manager vs. Town Administrator. She offered to provide us with what they had researched so far to use in our discussions.

Staggering the Town Council terms was discussed

Discussion of power of Budget Committee to hold TC to the budget they establish.

Current Budget Committee did not have a public meeting on their budget separate from the Town Council's and Beth referenced the decision was based on the wording of the charter that says "may" not "shall" regarding having that public meeting.

Old Business:

Discussion of Town Council's recent allotment of funds to the police for purchasing equipment without consultation with the TA or the Budget Committee.

Money was put aside based on estimates the police department gave them without going out to bid. Discussion of how the wording of the charter allows for this and if that is desirable.

Discussion regarding inviting the candidates to meet with us vs. having them attend the public meeting(s)

We are asking to be put on the Town Council agenda for to hear from them regarding the sections of the charter regarding Town Council.

Discussion of public hearing regarding the charter.

Next meeting is Thursday, September 29, 2016

Paul is trying to get the CRC on the Town Council agenda for October 3, 2016 which will be an additional meeting date if it happens.

Paul suggested adding a new section to the agendas to serve function of allowing a place in meeting for members to add new items to discuss at future meetings

Motion to adjourn – Tony Guertin, second Terri Bartomoili

Meeting adjourned at 8:15 PM

Minutes submitted by: Tracey Nangle