

Warren Charter Review Commission

Minutes for Monday, July 6, 2015

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM.

Commissioners in attendance were Andy Asselin, Julie Blount, Erin Kopecky, Jane MacDougal, Tara Thibaudeau and Judy Fardig. Minutes were recorded by Julie Blount.

1. The Charter Commission interviewed William Kemp, Harbor Management Commission Chairman regarding revisions to the Town Charter.

Suggested changes:

Section 14.06 Harbor Management Commission

The duties and responsibilities for the Harbor Management Commission need to be defined. A summary will be written that gives an overview of the definition and purpose along with goals and objectives for the commission. This draft will be based on text taken from the Harbor Management Plan.

Harbor Commission is an advisory board to the Town Council. They establish policy, but have no statutory authority. Harbor Master enforces the Harbor Management Plan and Town Ordinances.

Recommendation:

The Harbor Management Plan which has been approved by the State of RI, CRMC and DEM should also be adopted as part of the Warren Comprehensive Plan. One of the challenges we face in this community is to have real consistency between statues, plans and enforcement.

2. The Charter Commission interviewed Lester Lombardi, Conservation Commission Chairman regarding revisions to the Town Charter.

Comments:

Section 14.03 Conservation Commission

The current charter defines the duties and responsibilities of the Conservation Commission. The only complaint is that their opinion is generally overlooked.

The Conservation Commission is an advisory body. Rhode Island has not adopted the governing aspect to the conservation commission.

Their weigh-in statement to planning and other advisory boards should be more defined in town recordkeeping. There should also be more communication and consultation with our neighboring communities regarding environmental impacts brought on by land development, especially near our surrounding waterways.

A motion was made by Tara Thibaudeau, with a second by Andy Asselin to accept the minutes of the previous meeting (6/22). The vote was unanimous.

A motion to adjourn was made by Jane MacDougal with a second by Judy Fardig. The motion passed with all in favor.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:38 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Blount