

February 11, 2010

A meeting of the Charter Review Advisory Commission was called to order at 6:30 p.m. This meeting, originally scheduled for February 10, 2010 at 6:30 p.m. was postponed to February 11, 2010 at 6:30 p.m. due to inclement weather. Members present were Chairman Arthur S. Russo, Vice Chair Kenneth Booth, Linda Butera Noble, Paul St. Germain, Stanley Wynne, Fausto Anguilla and Maureen F. Smith. Dr. Ron Stewart arrived at 7:50 p.m. Linda Noble stated she would have to leave at 7:30 due to a previously scheduled Budget Board Meeting.

The commission discussed the length of time the meetings would last and how they would proceed to review the Charter. It was determined that the meetings would go until 8:00 p.m., but that due to issues arising, the meetings may go longer.

Under discussion, the commission spoke on the public forum. It was determined that it would be held on March 1, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. The secretary will advertise on the 25th of February for the hearing and post on Cox Cable and the web-site.

The commission discussed the report to the council. It was voiced that the commission needed to stress the reasons for changes in the language and why the language was written in a particular way. These changes would come from two major groups; the inside group consisting of Boards, Commissions, elected officials and employees

and the outside group, composed of town residents.

Chairman Russo stated that he is in contact with Marcia Green from the Valley Breeze, in regards to doing an article similar to the one done in Cumberland, on the commission. This is to raise public awareness and interest in the public forum.

The committee discussed majority and minority opinions. It was determined that they would use a consensus approach, but if there was a strong minority opinion on an issue, that the minority should go forward with their opinion.

The next meeting of the commission is scheduled for February 22, 2010 at 6:30 p.m. and will discuss Articles 3, Financial Town Meeting and 4, Budget Board.

Motion to approve minutes from the January 25, 2010 meeting as presented passed unanimously. (PSG-KB)

The commission reviewed the Preamble and did not consider any changes.

Under Article I Basic Provisions, there were no recommendations for change under the following sections: § C1-1. Incorporation., § C1-3. Powers of Town.

Under § C1-2. Form of government. Ken Booth spoke on his belief that this would still be a better form of government for the Town.

Motion to have Fausto Anguilla and Maureen Smith review the Charter and correct gender errors from the now reserved section §C1-4. passed unanimously. (KB-RS)

The commission reviewed Article II Elections. There were no recommendations for § C2-1. Electors. § C2-2. Election laws., § C2-3. Time of elections., or § C2-4. Board of Canvassers.

The commission recommends a change to § C2-5. Provisions for elections. The recommendation is to split this into two sections. Fausto Anguilla will work on the language and present to the commission at the next meeting. The commission will vote on the change at the next meeting.

There was no public comment.

Motion to adjourn. (SW-KB)

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.