

A meeting of the Charter Commission was held on Monday, October 2, 2017 in the Town Council Chambers, 195 Danielson Pike, N. Scituate, RI. The meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm by Michael Marcello, Chair.

Members Present: Michael Marcello, Sharon Johnson, Susan Lessard, Sacha Hummel

David Campbell, Ellis Hopkins III

Vincent Ferrara arrived late

Chair Marcello asked members and the audience to take a moment of silence for the victims of the Las Vegas shooting.

Member Ellis Hopkins gave a presentation on Boards and Commissions. (presentation attached) He stated the Town currently has 36 committees.

After the presentation, Chair Marcello opened the meeting up to the commission members and members of the audience for questions.

David Campbell asked at what point is too many committees. He said renewal should be required and the committee should be abolished once the reason for the committee has passed.

Sacha Hummel said the Affordable Housing Committee has not met in two years and did not give any input with the Hope Mill project.

Chair Marcello stated some boards are established by state statute which includes an appointment process. He also said it is necessary

for the charge of a board or committee to be established and recorded. He said end of year reports should be submitted by each committee including attendance of members.

Brian Vendetilli asked if committee members are getting stipends and not showing up for meetings.

Ruth Starch said committees cannot do their jobs when everyone is not there. She said the Land Trust and Conservation Commission have established an absentee policy that has been approved by the Town Council.

Mary Morse said she is looking for the charter to be a voice and protection for the citizens. She said committees need to operate without fear of retribution and cannot be micromanaged.

Tim McCormick said it is important to have a process to choose a chair of a committee. He said the committee should have a say.

Members discussed future meetings and upcoming presentations.

The next meeting will be on October 23, 2017 at Scituate High School.

Motion made by Sharon Johnson, seconded by Sacha Hummel, and voted to adjourn the meeting at 7:50 pm.

Attest:

Gloria Taylor, Clerk

Refer to recording for complete discussion