

# Observer Corps Report of Charter Commission Meeting May 26, 2022 Thursday

Zoom only meeting due to no room available at Town Hall.

Present: W. Brewster, B. Hall, D. Malaguti, B. Abbott, B. Keohan, F. Mand, S. Vecchi.

Opening Remarks from Chair Abbott: Chair Abbott made a statement regarding recent Town Election and 3 Questions regarding Form of Government for Plymouth: exact same number voted for Town Meeting form as voted for Mayor form; a lesser number voted for Counsel form. Abbott stated that the commissioners have been listening to the voters since they started meeting in June and will continue to do so. He is aware of divisions in Town, that this is not new, and that it is good since it keeps TMM on their toes and seeking improvements in the ways we govern. Also, he stated that the commissioners will continue to work extra hard to earn the support of our fellow citizens when they vote on the commissioners' recommendations next year.

Regarding the process of the commission meetings as specific changes are being written: each week the updates will be sent to each commissioner, words in red are the suggested changes, words in italics have been approved. As possible, major concept changes will be approved first followed by fine tuning and more reviews as necessary.

## Continuing Big Topic Discussions with Collins Center team focusing on Final Review, Discussion and Adoption of Charter Chapters 1 and 2 (Powers of Legislative Branch)

Reprecincting discussed again, at length, regarding how to word the concept that an appointed citizen committee will assist Town Clerk reprecinct after 10-year census. Talked about SB appointing 50% and COPC the other 50%, and having the option for Plymouth to look at the population numbers in 5 years, even if unable to change the precinct lines. Again, Collins will bring their suggestions to commissioners the next time Collins Center meets with Plymouth.

Section 2-2-4: What details should be in the Journal of each TM? Now it simply contains the votes. Abbott and Keohan said they get and watch the videos from PACTV of particular discussions when they need to know the details. But it can be hard to find the exact video, at PACTV. Commissioners agreed that PACTV will be asked to provide a copy of each Town Meeting to the Town, realizing that in the future a written copy of the video may be available.

2-4-1: How many Town Meetings should be held per year? After discussion of various positions, a vote was taken and passed 5 – 2 to continue with the Spring and Fall meetings and

that a 3<sup>rd</sup> one could be called in June by either SB or COPD.

2-7-1 Does the COPC need a paid clerk? Commissioners decided to write this into the Charter, which would then be part of the budget each year, to be approved or not by TM. Commissioners decided that COPC will make recommendations to TM on all warrant articles that are non-financial in nature.

Public Comment: Ginny Davis suggested that TMM attend other Town meetings and meet monthly to discuss Town matters, that they become aware of neighborhood issues and learn how to be an effective TMM.

Anatol Zuckerman made several suggestions including that there be 54 TMM, 4 TM/year, and a permanent Master Plan Committee.

Al DiNardo spoke to the advantages of TMM form of government, especially in terms it being the basis of self-government.

After considerable discussion commissioners decided that TMM would appoint the Moderator, as other Towns do, by a 5-2 vote. Collins Center will check out the details of the process and report back to commissioners.

Another long discussion took place about whether Town employees could be appointed to Fin Com committee or not. In the end a 5 – 2 vote supported not appointing Town employees or Elected officials, due to the reasoning that even a perception of conflict of interest should be avoided.

Closing Remarks: Chair Abbott was grateful that members completed changes for the Legislative Branch and announced that next week June 6 the committee will start on Executive branch/Chapter 3.

Readers, please be aware that the two dissenters in each of the reported three votes were never the same.

Respectfully reported,  
Martha Vautrain  
LWV Plymouth Observer Corps