

Observer Corps Report

Town of Plymouth Charter Commission

Meeting of August 8, 2022 (Hybrid – In-Person and via Zoom)

Commissioners in Attendance: Peck, Brewster, Hall, Malaguti, Pizer, Abbott, Keohan, Mand, Vecchi (? later ½ of meeting)

From Collins Center: Ward, Corbo, Lloyd

Handouts: August 8, 2022 Master Draft of Charter and August 1, 2022 Collins Center Memorandum 9

7:00pm Pledge of Allegiance and Announcements: September 1, 2022 is deadline for 1st draft of Charter, to allow 2 weeks for OCM typesetting and public notice prior to Select Board meeting and filing with AG office 9-16-22.

Abbott has set another meeting for Wednesday 8-10-22.

Per Collins Center advice, Abbott will ask Legal Council to advise about new proposal to elect Moderator and about voting role of Planning Board Alternate.

Minority Report: Peck announced that he will be writing and submitting a minority report. Discussion followed regarding sharing the report with all commissioners, which he will do prior to Nov 16, 2022 deadline.

Town Meeting Member (TMM) Voting Record: Peck recommends adding TMM voting record with the attendance record reported on the Town meeting website. Comments included fact that Town Clerk includes this information in the record/minutes of the meeting and then at a later date on the Town website, but commissioners agreed to also include this information with attendance information.

Conflict of Interest (COI): After lengthy and at times passionate, discussion commissioners agreed to combine paragraphs 2-11-1 and 2-11-2, and to remove the reference to town employees. Abbott especially and Keohan were concerned about removing the town employee language that, per Abbott, saved Town Meeting form of government about 20 years ago because of, at least, the perception that TMM were not always careful about avoiding COI when voting. Hall, who made the motion, and others believe in the importance of noting that COI measures apply equally to all TMM, not just town employees. And in the importance of enforcement, as well as a possible new way of presenting the Budget at Town Meeting (see following concept).

New way to organize Budget for presentation at Town Meeting: Peck proposed that the Budget be organized by Dept. so that it would be easy for TMM to abstain from voting/follow COI measures, and easy for all TMM and citizens to know that individuals are abstaining from voting when appropriate. Concern was raised that, by law, School Committee budget may not be required to follow this proposal. Collins Center will advise. Commissioners present voted 5 in favor of the proposal and 3 in opposition.

Term Limits: Commissioners first voted 6 – 3 to remove “Candidate for Re-election” next to incumbent names on the Ballot. Further discussion of many points of view was followed by vote to NOT have term limits.

Building Inspector Role in following Comprehensive Master Plan (CMP): After discussion Peck agreed to bring written suggestions to next meeting.

8:35pm **Public Comment:** None

Appointment of Conservation Committee: Discussion about 1. whether candidates should present desired credentials and qualifications that would help appointment process and lead to stronger committee, and 2. if Plymouth should set up an Appointment Board, as included in the Collins memo pages 12 – 13. Again after much consideration, commissioners voted 6 – 3 to include an Appointment Board in the Charter.

Next Meeting Wednesday 7pm 8-10-22. Finish Collins Memo 9

Respectfully Submitted,

Martha Vautrain

LWV Plymouth Observer Corps