

Observer Corps Report
Town of Plymouth Charter Commission
Meeting of October 3, 2022 (Hybrid – in-person and Zoom)

Commissioners in Attendance: Peck, Brewster, Hall, Pizer, Abbott, Keohan, Vecchi

Announcements:

1. Oct 4, 2022 Abbott will have a Zoom meeting with the Assist. AG, Collins Center Ward, and Charter Counsel Hall to review the Preliminary Report.
2. Publicizing the Preliminary Report. Efforts are underway to get a readable print size copy and a red-line copy to precinct chairs and possibility TMM and other town officials. Maybe P.S.H.S. print shop can help.
3. Nov. 15 is the due date for commissioners to send to SB the final draft, explanation of changes, differences between current charter and proposed, as well as Minority Report.

Public Hearing:

Charlie Matthewson, Pct 4 TMM and news reporter, said that the preliminary report has been well received, is a 'really good report' and he especially liked the 'public engagement' parts. His only suggestion: change Town Meeting Member (TMM) to Town Meeting Representative (TMR), since they are elected to represent citizens; they are not a member of a club.

Peter Neville, TMM, agreed with Matthewson. Later in the meeting Neville complimented Abbott for the Preliminary Charter introduction and stated that reading a red line copy was very valuable when trying to know and understand the changes.

Review of Final Preliminary Charter Edits:

Commissioners discussed at length the use of TMM or TMR, leading to decision that either term could be appropriate in different places of the Charter, and that at next meeting Abbott will bring suggestions for where in the charter to use TMR instead of TMM.

Keohan suggested adding 'legislative' to oversight committee. All agreed. Clerk Turner will make the changes.

Abbott thanked and complimented the League Observers for their Change document, which was sent to Commissioners recently. Only suggestion was from Peck who wondered if League wanted to add an introduction simply noting that the form of government was still Town Meeting.

Discussion continued about getting Charter Report to town officials and citizens who want them now and when the Final Report is available the beginning of 2023 & sent to all households as well as having extra clean and red line copies at Town Hall in addition to online.

Commissioners also started discussing how to educate the citizens about the proposed Charter changes such as commissioners signing up to attend precinct meetings, after contact with chair of COPC.

Neville suggested contacting Center for Active Living and Amy Naples/Chamber Commerce about holding meetings and stated that Plymouth First group (that brought the Charter Question to the Ballot) has already scheduled 3 meetings at the Library for Jan, Feb, March.

Next meeting Oct 17 to discuss AG response to Preliminary Charter and begin preparation of Final Charter report.

Respectfully submitted,

Martha Vautrain

LWV Observer Corps