

CHARTER REVIEW COMMITTEE MEETING

November 21, 2023 Plymouth Town Hall Ropewalk Room 6PM In-person and Zoom

Committee Members Present: David Golden, Chair; Alan Costello, Vice Chair; Robert Zupperoli, Clerk (Zoom), Betty Cavacco (Zoom), Joseph Hutchinson, Timothy Lawlor, Leon Levin, Laurence Pizer, Martha Vautrain, Steve Bolotin (alternate), Michael Hanlon (alternate).

Discussion – Chapter 2: The Legislative Branch

Chair Golden announced that the Committee will have its recommendations ready for the Fall 2024 Town Meeting.

The committee discussed **Section 3 – Powers**. Sections 2-3-1 and 2-3-2 were discussed briefly before taking a vote on each to eliminate them since they were deemed redundant with Massachusetts law. (The vote was 7 to 2 on each with Mr. Hutchinson and Mr. Costello voting in the minority)

Section 2-3-3, an iteration of some of the powers of the Representative Town Meeting, was examined at length. The committee voted 5-4 to eliminate the list with Messrs Hutchinson, Costello, Zupperoli and Levin voting in the minority. Once again, the rationale for deletion was that the powers of Representative Town Meeting are spelled out in State law.

Section 2-3-4 discusses the powers of the Committee of Precinct Chairs (COPC), and Section 2-3-5 discusses how the COPC is organized. The committee debated what the powers of precinct vice chairs should be. Should they have voting powers if the Chair is absent and unable to attend a COPC meeting? Also, according to Chair Golden, the role of all alternates needs to be described in the Charter for all committees. Ms. Cavacco, on the other hand, felt that committee structure should be up to each individual committee. Chair Golden said he would try to work up some language and bring it back to the committee.

Public Comment:

Dale Webber observed that unlike previous Charter Review Committees this one was making “huge changes.” He stated that he has an issue with not empowering the vice chair citing that even the highest office in the land has a vice president that is empowered to act in the absence of the president.

Pat Adlemann spoke to say she believes that the COPC should decide who can or cannot step in for a chair.

Discussion – Chapter 2: The Legislative Branch (cont')

Chair Golden had provided the committee with a slight reorganization of Section 2 and his suggested language for much of Section 2. He agreed to add “vice-chairs” to those who comprise membership on the COPC.

Respectfully submitted,
Lyle Lawrence