

## CHARTER REVIEW COMMITTEE (CRC) MEETING

January 16, 2024 Town Hall – Ropewalk Room 6PM

**Committee Members Present:** David Golden, Chair; Alan Costello, Vice Chair (via Zoom), Joseph Hutchinson, Leon Levin, Laurence Pizer, Martha Vautrain, Steve Bolotin (alternate), Michael Hanlon (alternate)

Guests on Zoom: Al DiNardo, William Abbott, Lyle Lawrence

### **Tonight's Committee:**

Because Betty Cavacco, Tim Lawlor and Robert Zuperolli were not present, alternates Steve Bolotin and Michael Hanlon were recognized as members with full voting power for tonight's session.

### **Schedule:**

The Committee is aiming to have the suggested revisions available for the October 2024 Town Meeting. That means that the report has to be ready for the warrant in early August. As a consequence, the committee will attempt to meet every week from this point forward with the exception of January 30th. Some meetings will likely be Zoom only.

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

The Committee agreed to move **Section 2-5-2** of the current charter to a section yet to be created that will house all the duties and responsibilities of the Town Clerk. Section **2-5-3** of the current Charter, which deals with Town Meeting Members (TMMs) who move from the town or from their precinct, was modified after some discussion to change the two instances of the word “may” to the word “shall” to emphasize that TMMs who move to a different precinct shall only serve until the next town meeting. It also compels the Town Clerk to declare a seat vacant if a TMM is incorrectly or illegally registered in a precinct. References to Mass General Laws were stricken.

The committee decided to deal later with the current Section 6 regarding the Town Moderator. There was extensive discussion around current Section 7 Rights of Non-TMMs. While the wording refers to the “procedural rules as the Moderator may impose,” this was changed to the procedural rules of Town Meeting because Town Meeting makes its own procedural rules (at least in theory), and the Town Moderator enforces them. [As an aside, the Committee suggested that Town Meeting should require separate lines for TMMs and non-TMMs who want to speak at Town Meeting.]

Next, the current Section 8 on compulsory attendance will be combined with and moved to Section 5. After lengthy discussion, changes were made to those required to attend Town Meeting and allowance was made for some designated representatives. The new wording, subject to change, is “*The Town Manager, the town engineer, all department heads or their designated representatives and any other staff designated by the Town Manager shall attend all representative town meetings. The chairpersons, and/or their*

*designated representatives, of the Select Board, the Planning Board, the School Committee and the Advisory and Finance Committee shall attend all representative town meetings.”* The committee also eliminated the provision that all town officials, whether elected or appointed, shall have all the powers of town meeting members except the power to vote. The discussion then turned to the filling of vacancies. The person with the highest number of votes among the unsuccessful candidates would be required to take the oath of office within 10 days.

It was also suggested that the precinct delegation should hold two additional meetings for purposes of engaging the public and to communicate with residents.

Specific wording for the above changes may be found in the minutes of the Charter Review Committee when they are published.

Respectfully submitted,  
Lyle Lawrence

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*When the minutes of this meeting have been approved, they will be available at [plymouth-ma.gov](http://plymouth-ma.gov) website. Go to the Government tab, click Agendas and Minutes, scroll down to and click Charter Review Committee, look to the right and click the minutes icon.*