

## CHARTER REVIEW COMMITTEE (CRC) MEETING

February 6, 2024 Town Hall – Ropewalk Room 6PM

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

Guests on Zoom: Al DiNardo, William Abbott

### **Invited Guest - Lee Hartmann, Director of Planning and Development**

Mr. Hartmann heads a staff of 12 who, along with him, provide support to various groups and committees. He stated that the Master Plan should set the parameters for zoning and also how the community makes decisions. He feels that the Planning Board alternate member's powers should be expanded. [Note that the Charter Review Committee (CRC) plans to look at the powers of alternate members on all committees.] Mr. Hartmann pointed out that the Industrial Commission hasn't met in many years and questioned whether it needed to be in the Charter. Mr. Hartmann was then asked if anything needed to be changed in Section 3-13-2 of the Charter that describes the duties and responsibilities of the Department of Planning and Development. Mr. Zupperoli suggested that it might be more efficient if Mr. Hartmann comes back to the CRC with a bulleted list of what might be changed. Section 3-15-4, the duties and responsibilities of the Director of Planning and Development, was the next section examined. Mr. Hartmann had no specific changes to that section other than he thought the language referring to "assuring that each function is operating efficiently" was "a bit over the top."

### **Invited Guest – Hampton Watkins, joined by Virginia Davis, both Members of the Land Use and Acquisition Committee (LUAC)**

Mr. Watkins related that he and the LUAC were approached by the Town Manager, Derek Brindisi, about evaluating the potential use of land (not Chapter 61 land) next to the Town Library. Currently in the Charter (Section 3-14-9) the LUAC is charged with recommendations regarding the acquisition of Chapter 61 lands. (Chapter 61 deals with the assessment and taxation of agricultural and horticultural lands). Mr. Brindisi and the LUAC discussed asking for expansion of the LUAC responsibilities to include other lands as suggested by the Town Manager and the Select Board. There was an extensive discussion regarding the history of the LUAC and its dormancy for many years as well as the other committees in town that deal with land. Mr. Bolotin agreed to meet with the LUAC to look at wording for the LUAC section of the Charter.

*Mr. Lawlor left the meeting at this point so Mr. Bolotin became a voting member.*

### **Discussion – Section 3-11 Development and Industrial Commission**

The CRC voted to eliminate this section since the Plymouth Development and Industrial Commission is no longer functional.

### **Discussion – Section 3-8 New Section on Administration Organization**

Mr. Golden brought forth this new section (see below, which represents a slight modification from the original proposal) after reviewing it with the Town Manager and the Select Board. It is intended to eliminate prescriptive entries, job descriptions and H/R considerations from the Charter. Specifically, it seeks to replace the entirety of Sections 3-8, 3-9, 3-13 and 3-15. Ms. Vautrain pointed out that Section 3-6 - The Department of Public Works should also be eliminated if the CRC is to be consistent in its approach. There was much discussion regarding the role of the Advisory and Finance (A&F) in transferring the appropriation – do they have to “approve” or do they “review?” Ms. Cavacco felt strongly that “approval” was not the right word, and Mr. Levin suggested “review.” The vote was 6-3 to approve the following language for Section 3-8 with Ms. Cavacco and Messrs. Costello and Hutchinson in the minority. .

*The Town Manager may, with Select Board approval and subject to applicable provisions of the general or special laws, re-organize, consolidate, or abolish town agencies in whole or in part, or provide for new town agencies. When incident to any such re-organization, with the approval of the Advisory and Finance Committee, the Town Manager shall direct the transfer all or a portion of the appropriation made for one town agency to another.*

### **Old Business**

Chair Golden announced that he had learned that all salaried positions had to be approved annually at Town Meeting; hence the proposal made at a previous meeting that the Select Board be paid a salary (as opposed to a modest stipend) could not be a part of the Charter.

Respectfully submitted,  
Lyle Lawrence

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