

## **CHARTER REVIEW COMMITTEE (CRC) MEETING**

**April 2, 2024 Town Hall – Ropewalk Room 6PM**

**Committee Members Present:** David Golden, Chair; Alan Costello (Zoom), Vice Chair; Robert Zupperoli (Zoom), Clerk, Len Levin, Laurence Pizer, Martha Vautrain, Steve Bolotin (associate),

**Tonight's Committee:** With the absence of Betty Cavacco, Joseph Hutchinson and Tim Lawlor, associate member Steve Bolotin was recognized as a member with full voting powers for tonight's session. Michael Hanlon was not present, otherwise he also would have served as a full voting member.

### **Public Comment:**

David Peck spoke of his concern that there is not more competition for Representative Town Meeting seats, and suggested that the number of reps per precinct be reduced from 9 to 6. (The Charter Review Committee does not have the power to do this.)

### **Guest Speaker, David Peck, Chair of the Building Committee**

David Peck, when asked what changes he might make to the Charter's section on the Building Committee, said that he favored the changes suggested by the recent Charter Commission. Those changes included six members appointed by the Select Board for three -year overlapping terms and one-year terms for the Planning Board designee and the two School Committee designees. He also recommended that other town committees have the ability to request support from the Town specifically stated in the Charter as it is for the Building Committee.

### **Guest Speakers, Sean Andersen, Chair of the Conservation Commission (ConCom) and, Walter Morrison, Member of ConCom**

Mr. Andersen suggested that the Charter allow for two alternate members on the ConCom.

Ms. Vautrain mentioned the Massachusetts Association of Conservation Commissions (MACC) Certification Program and Mr. Morrison mentioned that he was pursuing it, but the time demands are significant so it might be difficult for someone who was not retired. There was discussion as to whether it should be required for ConCom members, but it was felt that the Charter might not be the right place for any requirement.

### **Guest Speaker, Michael Main, Chair of the Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA)**

Mr. Main spoke of the interesting history of zoning. He had no recommended changes for the language of the Charter.

### **Public Comment:**

Bruce Howard, a former member of ConCom, expressed concern about the heavy weighting toward construction and development on the Commission. He felt the MACC

Certification program provided a level of expertise that all ConCom members should achieve. He also stated that open seats are a perennial problem for the Commission and felt that there should be alternate members who could step in when there is a vacancy. He would also like to see three of the seven members from development and three of the seven from a wetlands/conservation background.

### **Discussion of Section 3-10 Conservation Commission (ConCom)**

The Committee agreed to strike Section 3-10-2 in keeping with not referencing state law. Since the ConCom's role, make-up, etc. is dictated by State law, the suggestion to add an alternate or associate member as well as the appointment process will be taken to the Town Counsel for review before being added to Section 3-10-1.

### **Discussion of Section 3-12 Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA)**

Again, for consistency in eliminating references to state law, the Committee struck Section 3-12-2, and made no changes to 3-12-1.

### **Discussion of Section 3-16-1 Building Committee**

The Committee then modified the appointments process so that the Select Board appoints six members for three-year overlapping terms. The School Committee designates two members and the Planning Board one member, each for a one-year term. (Note: The Select Board currently appoints all nine members.) The Select Board shall also seek (but not be required) to appoint a registered professional engineer or architect, an attorney, and a person employed in the construction industry or a related trade. (Note: The appointment process is similar to what the Committee did with the Board of Health. Also similar is the language specifying that there are desired professions for the committee, but they are not mandatory.) The Committee voted that the Building Committee will "monitor and advise" on projects authorized by Town meeting rather than "be responsible for the oversight."

### **Discussion of Elected Town Boards and Committees**

Sections 4-1-1, 4-1-2, and 4-1-3 No changes made at this time. Chair will discuss with Town Counsel.

Section 4-1-4 voted to strike since the information is included in state law.

Section 4-2-1 No changes.

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.*