

Town of Bourne Charter Review Committee

Meeting Minutes September 29, 2021 at 7:15 PM Zoom Meeting

Charter Review Committee Members: Chairman Stephen Mealy, Vice Chair Renee Gratis, Administrative Clerk Anne-Marie Siroonian, Recording Clerk Barbara Princiotta, Member Michael Carlowicz, Member Griffin Girard, Member Joseph Gordon

Also, present: N/A

Documents: N/A

1. **Call Public Session to Order in Open Meeting** - Chairman Mealy called to order the meeting of the Charter Review Committee at 7:15 P.M. on September 29, 2021. He announced that this Zoom meeting is being recorded and may be televised by Bourne TV at some future date. Chairman Mealy noted that anyone from the public that wished to access the meeting could do so by using the Zoom information listed on the meeting agenda and instructed the public how they could participate. A roll call attendance was taken.

Roll call:

Michael Carlowicz - Excused

Griffin Girard - Present

Joseph Gordon - Excused

Renee Gratis - Present

Stephen Mealy - Present

Barbara Princiotta - Present

Anne-Marie Siroonian - Present

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2. **Public Comment on non-agenda items** - There was no public comment.
3. **Review Correspondence** - Chairman Mealy inquired as to whether any correspondence had been received as of September 29, 2021. No correspondence was received.

4. **Continue to Review and Vote on First Draft of Charter Articles -**

- Article 10, Section 10-5: A motion was made by Renee Gratis, seconded by Anne-Marie Siroonian to strike this section in its entirety.

The motion carried.

Roll call:

Michael Carlowicz - Excused

Griffin Girard - Yes

Joseph Gordon - Excused

Renee Gratis - Yes

Stephen Mealy - Yes

Barbara Princiotta - Yes

Anne-Marie Siroonian - Yes

- Article 10, Section 10-3: A motion was made by Renee Gratis, seconded by Anne-Marie Siroonian to correct the gender-neutral language within this section as follows: No person in the permanent full-time service or employment of the town shall forfeit his the person's grade or time in service. Each such person shall be retained in a capacity as similar to his the individual's former capacity as is practical.

The motion carried.

Roll call:

Michael Carlowicz - Excused

Griffin Girard - Yes

Joseph Gordon - Excused

Renee Gratis - Yes

Stephen Mealy - Yes

Barbara Princiotta - Yes

Anne-Marie Siroonian - Yes

- **Article 8, Section 8-6 (c):** A motion was made by Anne-Marie Siroonian, seconded by Barbara Princiotta Siroonian to correct reflect the following language within this section: Each ~~multiple member-body governmental body~~ shall provide for the keeping of the minutes of its proceedings and approve minutes within the next three public body meetings or 30 days from the date of the meeting, whichever is later, unless the public body can show good cause for further delay. The minutes shall be a public record and a copy of the minutes shall be filed with the office of the town clerk, once approved by the governmental body as outlined above.

The motion carried.

Roll call:

Michael Carlowicz - Excused

Stephen Mealy - Yes

Griffin Girard - Yes

Barbara Princiotta - Yes

Joseph Gordon - Excused

Anne-Marie Siroonian - Yes

Renee Gratis - Yes

- **Article 8, Section 8-6 (d):** A motion was made by Renee Gratis, seconded by Barbara Princiotta reflect the following language within this section: Meetings of the ~~board of selectmen~~ select board, the school committee, the board of health and the planning board shall ~~if possible, be televised, recorded, live streamed or broadcast on the local cable channel or streamed~~ recorded and posted on the town's website. The town shall choose the most effective method but technical difficulties with equipment shall not cause a meeting to be postponed.

The motion carried.

Roll call:

Michael Carlowicz - Excused

Stephen Mealy - Yes

Griffin Girard - Yes

Barbara Princiotta - Yes

Joseph Gordon - Excused

Anne-Marie Siroonian - Yes

Renee Gratis - Yes

- **Article 8, Section 8-7:** A motion was made by Renee Gratis, seconded by Anne-Marie Siroonian reflect the following language within this section: In computing times under this charter, ~~if 7 days or less, only business days shall be counted. If computing more than 7 days, every day shall be counted.~~ "days" is defined as calendar days.

The motion carried.

Roll call:

Michael Carlowicz - Excused

Stephen Mealy - Yes

Griffin Girard - Yes

Barbara Princiotta - Yes

Joseph Gordon - Excused

Anne-Marie Siroonian - Yes

Renee Gratis - Yes

- **Article 8, Section 8-8:** A motion was made by Renee Gratis, seconded by Anne-Marie Siroonian reflect the following language within this section: Words importing the singular number may extend and be applied to several persons or things. Words importing the plural number may include the singular. ~~and words importing the masculine gender shall include the feminine gender.~~

The motion carried.

Roll call:

Michael Carlowicz - Excused

Stephen Mealy - Yes

Griffin Girard - Yes

Barbara Princiotta - Yes

Joseph Gordon - Excused

Anne-Marie Siroonian - Yes

Renee Gratis - Yes

- **Article 8, Section 8-9:** A motion was made by Renee Gratis, seconded by Anne-Marie Siroonian reflect the following language within this section:

For the purposes of this charter, the following words shall, unless the context clearly requires otherwise, have the following meanings:

“Charter”, this charter and any amendments to it made through any of the methods provided under Article LXXXIX of the amendments to the Constitution of the Commonwealth.

“Gender Neutrality”, Any reference to gender in this charter shall be construed as meaning any person, people, individual, or individuals. ~~regardless of sex and is contained herein only in the interest of brevity.~~

“Goal”, the desired outcome of a policy, program or other action.

“Governmental Body”, means any federal, state, local, municipal, or other government; any governmental, regulatory, or administrative agency, commission or other authority lawfully exercising or entitled to exercise any administrative, executive, judicial, legislative, police, regulatory or taxing authority or power; and any court or governmental tribunal.

“Library”, the Jonathan Bourne public library and any branch thereof that may be established.

“Local newspaper”, a newspaper of general circulation within the town.

“Local Comprehensive Plan”, is an important planning tool used to guide the growth and direction of the town while balancing a wide variety of needs, including economic growth, protection of environmental resources, quality of life and community character.

“Majority vote”, as to a town meeting, a majority of those present and voting; as to a multiple member body, the affirmative vote of a majority of all members present and voting shall be necessary to adopt any motion, order, appointment or approval or disapproval or to take any action not entirely procedural in nature, unless otherwise provided by law.

~~**“Multiple member body”**, a board, commission or committee consisting of 2 or more persons, whether elected or appointed.~~

“Policy”, a statement of a preferred practice

“Strategic Plan”, The long-term vision, goals, and objectives for the town of Bourne codified *and express the organizational process which defines the Town’s direction toward a future state.*

“Town”, the town of Bourne.

“Town agency”, a board, commission, committee, department or office of town government, whether elected, appointed or otherwise constituted.

“Town meeting”, the town meeting of the town of Bourne established in article 2.

“Town officer official”, an elected or appointed official of the town who, in the performance of that person’s official duties, exercises some portion of the sovereign power of the town, whether great or small; provided, however, that a person may be a town official whether or not that person receives compensation for his services.

“Voter handbook”, the voter handbook established in subsection (c) of section 2-5 and referenced in section 7-4.

“Voters”, the registered voters of the town.

The motion carried.

Roll call:

Michael Carlowicz - Excused

Griffin Girard - Yes

Joseph Gordon - Excused

Renee Gratis - Yes

Stephen Mealy - Yes

Barbara Princiotta - Yes

Anne-Marie Siroonian - Yes

- Article 9, Section 9-4: A motion was made by Renee Gratis, seconded by Anne-Marie Siroonian to make this section gender neutral and change officer to official.

The motion carried.

Roll call:

Michael Carlowicz - Excused

Griffin Girard - Yes

Joseph Gordon - Excused

Renee Gratis - Yes

Stephen Mealy - Yes

Barbara Princiotta - Yes

Anne-Marie Siroonian - Yes

5. **Discussion of Agenda Items for Next Scheduled Meeting** - Chairman Mealy opened the discussion for items to be addressed at the next meeting. The next meeting would be 10/6 we would discuss Section 5-8 and review the minutes from the prior meetings.

6. **Adjourn** - Chairman Mealy asked if there was anything else the members would like to discuss.

After no discussion, Chairman Mealy entertained a motion to adjourn.

Anne Marie moved, seconded by Renee Gratis. The motion carried.

Roll call vote:

Michael Carlowicz - Excused

Griffin Girard - Yes

Joseph Gordon - Excused

Renee Gratis - Yes

Stephen Mealy - Yes

Barbara Princiotta - Yes

Anne-Marie Siroonian - Yes

Meeting adjourned at 8:57 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Princiotta