

**Board of Selectmen
Minutes of Tuesday, September 15, 2020
Bourne Community Building
Bourne, MA 02532**

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TA Tony Schiavi
ATA Glenn Cannon

Selectmen

Judy Froman, Chair
James Potter, Vice Chair
George Slade, Clerk
Jared MacDonald
Peter Meier

Note this meeting is being televised and recorded by Bourne TV.

There will be no public comment period during this meeting.

All items within the meeting agenda are subject to deliberation and vote(s) by the Board of Selectmen.

Documents:

Executive Session:

Motion to enter into Executive Session for review, discussion and possible vote on the Executive Session Minutes cited below:

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Minutes to be reviewed for 2019: 04.01; 08.06; 09.03

Minutes to be voted for 2019: 08.28; 09.10; 10.01; 10.09; 10.28; 11.19; 12.17

Minutes to be approved for 2020: 02.18; 03.04; 04.28; 6.08

As necessary, the Chair will call for votes during the Executive Session and report out any actions taken by the Board.

The Board of Selectmen will reconvene in open session at the conclusion of the Executive Session.

Roll call vote to convene into Executive Session for the purpose stated.

Conduct Executive Session

Roll call vote to reconvene in open session at the conclusion of the Executive Session.

Roll call vote to adjourn the Executive Session

Madam Chair Froman called the meeting to order.

The Chair will report out any votes taken during the Executive Session

Judy Froman stated in Executive Session we reviewed, approved, and sent to the Records Access Officer a number of meeting minutes.

Moment of Silence for our Troops and our public safety personnel /Salute the Flag

Vision: Bourne is a community that embraces change while respecting the rich heritage of the town and its villages. It is a municipality based on strong fiscal government with a durable economy that recognizes the rights of all citizens, respects the environment, especially the coastal areas of the community, embraces excellent education, and the amenities that it affords and offers to citizens a healthy, active lifestyle.

Mission: Bourne will maximize opportunities for social and economic development while retaining an attractive, sustainable and secure coastline and environment for the enjoyment of residents and visitors. Through responsibility and professional leadership and in partnership with others, Bourne will strive to improve the quality of life for all residents living and working in the larger community.

5) Appointments

a. Interview Charter Review Committee Applicants

- i. 7:00 – Christopher Pine**
- ii. 7:15 – Renee Gratis**
- iii. 7:30 – Michael Carlowicz**
- iv. 7:45 – Griffin Girard (Via Zoom or Telephone)**
- v. 8:00 – Joseph Gordon**
- vi. 8:15 – Anne – Marie Siroonian**
- vii. 8:30 – Stephen Mealy**
- viii. 8:45 – Barbara Princiotta**

Judy Froman said each candidate will get a chance to explain how the town of Bourne and the Charter Review Committee will benefit from their participation in the review process, and what is the most important consideration to keep in mind during this process. After all candidates had a chance to speak, the Board will deliberate and possibly make a decision regarding who will be Members on the Charter Review Committee and who will be the Alternate.

Christopher Pine

Experience involvement with town committees, town government, my professional involvement with different associations and many committees as well as my work habits

and characteristics will benefit the town in this capacity. Been a resident of Bourne for the past 20 years. Have been involved in the Main Street Steering Committee and the Phase II Stormwater Local Pollution committee, serve as an associate on the ZBA, involved in the process of the LCP, regularly attending town meeting for the past 5 years. Owns 2 companies in Pocasset. Served on a bunch of national, regional, and local non-profit boards.

Peter Meier questioned are you prepared to be available for the length of the committee. Chris Pine said yes, I will be available or make the time to be available

George Slade questioned are there any areas of the Charter that you could contribute to in making recommendation on revising? Chris Pine said it would be more important to be able to listen and take the ideas of the involved parties and be able to translate those into effective change, more so than looking at specific areas.

James Potter questioned is there anything about our current government or Charter relate item that you think could be improved in town. Chris Pine said I don't believe that there are little changes that would make a difference, the town of Bourne has grown tremendously and the function of a committee like this should also look five years ahead, and the impact that will have on the community. There are questions to evaluate: open town meeting, a representative type of town meeting. There could be bigger opportunities that could be looked at, if that was the function of the Charter Review Committee.

Renee Gratis

I was born in Buzzards Bay, Live in Pocasset, work in town and serve on committees in town, love contributing to this town.

Jared MacDonald questioned would you have enough time for this committee considering the other committees you serve on. Renee Gratis said I believe so and don't see any hinderance to it

Peter Meier questioned have you read the Charter, if you have, do you have any observations, what should change, what should not change? Renee Gratis said I have read the Charter an do have ideas for what to change. Would like to bring in people mentioned in the charter, BOS, Town Administrator, Town Clerk to discuss their positions, how they relate to the Charter, and see if they have suggestions about what hinders their job or could make their job easier, regarding the Charter.

George Slade questioned some brief suggestions on ways to reconcile the Charter to other elements of our government like the Bylaws. Renee Gratis said deadlines do have to be met, research is crucial, and cross referencing is key when reviewing the Charter.

Renee Gratis questioned the BOS do you have any reservation as to why I may not be a good fit for the committee, that I could address now in front of the Board of Selectmen.

Judy Froman said the Selectmen do not have any reservations with Renee, just some people may have time constraints because of other committees they are serving on.

Judy Froman questioned how would other people describe your position on another committee? Renee Gratis said I do a lot of research before meetings, I have heard comments from the public and people I serve with, maybe instead of doing all the research beforehand, save some of those questions for when people are participating in the meeting. People think we show up to meetings with our mind already made up. I ask a lot of questions and do a lot of research.

Judy Froman said from serving on the Town Administrator search committee can you think of anything that would be helpful that came out of that experience in terms of the process. Renee Gratis said it's interesting to hear how many different points of view people have. The main thing is to stay on target, find the best fit for the position at hand, what you perceive in black and white can translate different to real life.

Michael Carlowicz

Been a resident of Bourne since 2010. What benefit can I bring to the committee, I understand rules and the power of words. I work in communications for a living. I know how words can be misunderstood, misconstrued, manipulated, and interpreted different by different people. Reviewing the Charter means getting the words right. How the framework is working, well or not so well. I understand the value of ideals. I know how to research, listen, and ask questions. I am a political junkie; I have worked for the Federal Government. I'm not afraid to ask the tough questions. I can be objective. Regarding important considerations; don't try to fix what is not broken.

Peter Meier said I am pushing to get people from the community that can bring a different perspective, I would like to get new people with new ideas.

George Slade said you need to be a collaborative worker.

Michael Carlowicz questioned the time commitment expectation?

Judy Froman said the time commitment is between now and the May Town Meeting. We want this committee to have intellectual perspectives, to be able to interact with the public, and engage in the community. It will be up to the committee on how often they meet and how long the meeting will be. James Potter said this committee isn't charged with re-writing the charter.

Jared MacDonald questioned is there something that concerns you that you would not be able to make the time and availability? Mr. Carlowicz said not at this point.

Jared MacDonald questioned is there something that stood out to you that was unclear that you think has to change? Michael Carlowicz said it's not necessarily written in a way that is easily read by the layman, it is written to be parsed by legislators and lawyers. Some items are not easily understood what was meant.

Michael Carlowicz questioned How do we learn issues that are to be addressed? Is there any room for or expectation of public hearing, public comments? Judy Froman said we are expecting public engagement. They need to be public meetings.

Griffin Girard (Via Zoom or Telephone)

How will the town of Bourne and the Charter Review Committee benefit from my participation? I believe civic engagement is important to the function of local government and wanted to find a way I can apply my knowledge and experience to give back to Bourne. I grew up in Bourne and feel I have a unique perspective on the operations and function of town government and how that may apply to the younger generation. I have previous experience in state government in the State House and various non-profit in regards to policy writing and different types of document analysis. As a grad student, listening taking notes, and synthesizing information is what I do on a day-to-day basis.

Regarding what is the most important consideration to keep in mind during this process. Being open minded throughout the entire process is one of the most important things, also take into account other people's issues with the Charter. That will result in a more effective and responsive Charter, if you approach that document and reforming that document with an open mind.

Jim Potter said there is no particular schedule set for the committee, would you be OK with being available for whatever that schedule may be, hours of meeting, in-person, zoom? Griffin Girard said if my remote participation in any way is prohibitive to this committee, I would request to be an alternate for this committee.

Jared MacDonald questioned do you feel that your time working with the Senator is going to be something that would be impactful, or would your young perspective be more useful? Mr. Girard said his open-minded and youthfulness would probably be more useful tools.

George Slade said we may be asking committee members to get feedback from the senior staff within the town, TA, ATA, and department heads do you feel equipped to devote some time to get feedback and present questions to Town Staff? Mr. Girard said Yes, I would value everyone's opinion.

Joseph Gordon

Been a resident of Bourne for over 50 years. I have served on previous boards with some of the BOS members. Served on the BOH, School Committee, Finance Committee, current Chairman for the Trustees of the Community Building. Have a Masters Degree in Public Administration. Did nearly 2 years as an intern to the Town Manager in Barnstable. Public service has been a passion of mine. Did sit in on a couple Charter review meetings for the last review and thought that was interesting. I feel my background, including more than 20 years of service to the town in a variety of rolls would be a benefit. I would bring some

experience of knowing how meetings are run, what the processes are, and having open dialog with not only fellow committee members, but the public also, and being open minded.

Peter Meier questioned with all that you do are there going to be time constraints to attend all the meeting between now and the May Town Meeting? Mr. Gordon said my schedule isn't busy now, so I will be able to meet all the requirements.

George Slade said we have an opportunity to improve the Charter, it's good to get feedback from residents and collaborate with the people that work for the town. We are looking for someone who would be able to collaborate with members to make sure these people are heard and given due respect. Have you had any experience where you had to reach out to the public in your years of service? Mr. Gordon said my fulltime position with the sheriff's office I'm his liaison to the County Regional Emergency Planning Committee, also his liaison to all 15 Counsel on Aging. I am in the community collaborating on a number of projects in a number of areas. The Charter is a unique document, you have to be open to dialog, you have to be able to listen to people's input and ideas. You may want to do a survey with the community, because some residents don't want to come forward and talk.

Mr. Gordon questioned the timeframe of the review committee, when does it start and when does it end? Judy Froman said it starts when we determine who is on the committee and we call the first meeting and offer the Charge. The committee will then need to vote officers. If there are recommendations for changes, they would have to go in front of Town Meeting in May. We want a careful, methodical measured approach to reviewing the Charter and getting input so we have a good document. The most important is, at a minimum, there is a report for the May Town Meeting.

Mr. Gordon questioned if the committee will have access to the previous Charter reviews, the groundwork, would like to look at what the past review committees did. Judy Froman said the minutes from those meeting can be public accessed.

Jim Potter sad we aren't looking for a Charter re-write, but questioned if there is anything in the charter that stands out, that made you want to be on the committee? Mr. Gordon said he read the charter but nothing in particular stood out.

Jared MacDonald questioned in your time with the Sheriff Dept have you found that there are some things that always seem to be a problem and never get changed, that you can relate to the Charter, and how do you work through those issues? Mr. Gordon said in the Sheriff Dept., no. Most of my work is done externally, I work with MEMA a lot, but I have seen those situations.

Jim Potter excused himself from this part of the interview.

Anne – Marie Siroonian

Been in Bourne for 25 years. Being part of a community is more than just having an address in town, it's about immersing yourself in what the community has to offer and an opportunity to give back. I started in the governance as a library trustee, served on that committee for 3 years. Volunteered a lot in the school system, then becoming a School Committee member and serving 8 years, the last couple years as Chair of the School Committee. I learned a lot about the uniqueness of the governance in Bourne. A lot of work was looking at policies, reviewing, revising, retiring policies; understanding Town Meeting, working with other committees, the budget process. I could bring all that experience to this position. I think what is most important when reviewing the Charter is about We the People and how we want to be governed and what that government should look like. Looking at the past, applying it to the present, and preparing for the future, and is the Charter the best it can be with respect to that. I have experience with process and approach and how that task should be taken on. It is important to tap into the necessary resources to get the answers we need. The Charter should be flexible but have a strong hold on the way things are done in the community, and how we can grow.

George Slade said we would like it for the May Town Meeting, but we would rather have a good product. Would you be able to collaborate with the other committee members and make that happen? Anne – Marie Siroonian said the communication piece is a big part of this. I'm good at making people feel comfortable to express their input.

Judy Froman asked would you talk about the process of listening to what a lot of people want to say and trying to synthesize that and getting it down to a decision, and what challenges may arise. Anne – Marie Siroonian said when a lot of people have input, and you are requesting input, systematically you can look at what the commonalities are. There is a lot of deliberation, acknowledging other people's input and educating them on the way things are done, and express the reasons why decisions are being made. Opportunity to look at the way things were done in the past that had success in this process.

Peter Meier questioned how would you engage the public to get involved in the discussion. Anne – Marie Siroonian said you try to get out and engage people and encourage people to attend meetings, and have conversations with people, and get their input and be open minded.

James Potter rejoined the meeting.

Stephen Mealy

Said regarding how the town of Bourne and the Charter Review Committee would benefit from my participation is I don't have an agenda about the town Charter. Haven't had an agenda on many of the committees, boards and commissions that I have served or continue to serve for the almost 4 years I have worked with the Town. My entire focus is and will continue to be to serve to the best of my ability. I am bringing to the table an open book of what has to be done as well as I can agree to disagree. I have worked on both sides of the table and understand the details of how our community works under the town Charter. I

worked on various levels of the town's vast resources of volunteer committees and boards. We are a better community because of the support and assistance we got from all of our volunteers. Most of the memberships I've served in, I've served as a member and eventually moved into a leadership position. My background both in the community service and my professional career reflect the commitment I have to my family, my employers, and my town.

The most important consideration that anyone can have for this particular committee is to have a willingness to listen and to accept different ideas and opinions. People that are open-minded are willing to change their views when presented with facts and evidence, I gain more by trying to maintain that open mind. The review committee can best be described as a committee of members who will listen with an open mind. I know some of the candidates that have submitted their names to be on this committee. The task before the committee is a large one.

George Slade said it is important to collaborate with team members and I know you have served in capacities as chair as well as member. I know you would be willing to draw in information from other members as well as the department head in town and people not on the committee who may have input on the way the Charter has worked. What do you think would be the sign of a successful Charter review? Stephen Mealy said having it completed in a timely fashion, the review, and have all of the amendments that we might be presenting accepted and reviewed by Counsel, accepted by the Board of Selectmen, then accepted by Town Meeting. Other towns are undergoing the same review that we are. The methodology of the review is different for each town, but the net result is arriving with a plan on how to make the changes and presenting them in a way that everyone understands, can accept them, and endorse them.

James Potter said tonight if it is decided to form the committee, there is a good mix of people, some with no government experience and some with a lot of government experience. It would be great to have fresh eyes looking at this but it is also great to have some leadership and guidance for people who might be doing this for the first time. It is not a Charter re-write, but if there are statements that the committee feels could be improved, it is good to get that mix of citizens opinions. You would be bringing the findings to Town Meeting. Stephen Mealy confirmed the time frame is to have it completed by the Annual Town Meeting in May, if we don't make it, would we go to a Special Town Meeting in the Fall?

Jared MacDonald questioned do you think your experience brings a different perspective and is significant. Stephen Mealy stated it does. It sets up priorities in a clear way. All the experience I gained from serving on the Finance Committee about understanding the budget and how the relationship of the budget adjusts different items in certain ways is significant. Being on the Shore and Harbor Committee gave me experience dealing with people who had no interest in town government, but wanted to get the waterfront straightened out.

Barbara Princiotta

Been a resident of the town going on 11 years. I have a lot of flexible time, so I have time to commit to the committee. This committee is a good opportunity to get involved in the town and to learn about the town and how it works, because our Charter and Bylaws are the foundations of our community. I have no prior board experience, so I would bring a fresh set of eyes to the document. Bringing fresh ideas leads to brainstorming and collaborative discussions to get the best outcome. I read the document and have a lot of questions. I have a lot of experience in management, operations, human resource. I'm accustomed to writing procedures, manuals, detailed reviews and documents, working with attorneys, and presenting to board members. I'm detail oriented and comfortable doing research and asking questions. I think tweaking some of the words in the charter could clarify things more. I could add suggestions for offering clarity, even for the residents, and adding overall consistency through the document. The most important consideration is to focus on changes. To make the Charter is more effective and useful to the end user, while still staying true to its purpose. It would be helpful to effectively describe all the duties and responsibilities in an understandable format.

James Potter questioned as you read through the Charter was there anything that stood out that was confusing, you didn't understand it, or something that doesn't align with how the town currently works, something that you weren't sure about. Barbara Princiotta said it was interesting how on certain rolls, like the Fire Department or the Police Department, are worded so differently. Some departments have a 2-sentence description and some have a paragraph, why the difference.

Barbara Princiotta questioned how often will the Charter Review Committee meet. Judy Froman said it will be up to the Charter Review Committee as to how often the committee will meet. Looking to have, at least, a report at the Town Meeting.

6) Selectmen's Business**a. Discuss Charter Review Committee Candidates and possible vote for appointment**

Peter Meier suggested the alternate go to all the meeting in case they have to step into a member position, they will already be up-to-date on the discussion. They can participate in the discussions; they just can't vote.

The Board members deliberated, discussed the pros and cons of each individual candidate, and decided to identify the alternate. There is good gender balance, age balance, and residency balance.

Jared MacDonald's recommendation are - Members: Renee Gratis, Michael Carlowicz, Griffin Girard, Joseph Gordon, Anne - Marie Siroonian, Stephen Mealy, and Barbara Princiotta. Alternate member: Christopher Pine.

Voted: Jared MacDonald moved and seconded by James Potter to appoint the following slate of candidates for the 2020 Charter Review Committee: Renee Gratis, Michael Carlowicz, Griffin Girard, Joseph Gordon, Anne – Marie Siroonian, Stephen Mealy, and Barbara Princiotta; and to appoint Christopher Pine as the Alternate member.

Peter Meier requested the Alternate member be listed on the final report for the Charter, because they were an active participant in discussions.

Roll Call Vote: Jared MacDonald – Yes, Jim Potter – Yes, George Slade – No, Peter Meier – Yes, Judy Froman - Yes
Vote: 4-1-0.

7) Correspondence

No Correspondents

8) Adjourn

Voted Peter Meier moved and seconded by Jared MacDonald to adjourn. Meeting adjourned.
Vote: 5-0-0.

Respectfully submitted – Carole Ellis, secretary.