

MEETING MINUTES
CHARTER REVIEW COMMITTEE MEETING
PUBLIC INFO SESSION
FULLER MEADOW SCHOOL LIBRARY
143 SOUTH MAIN STREET, MIDDLETON, MA 01949
THURSDAY FEBRUARY 20, 2025, at 5:30 PM

Charter Committee Members Present: Co-Chair Trevor Currier, George Dow Sr, Sally George, Sharon Bainbridge, James Vining, Frank Twiss

Charter Committee Members Absent: Natalie Lovett

Others Attending:

5 PM Co-Chair Trevor Currier called the meeting to order at 5:31PM.

Business

Approve Minutes of January 30, 2025

*On the **motion by George Dow Sr second by Sharon Bainbridge**, the Charter Review Committee **voted unanimously** to approve amended minutes of the 1/30/2025 meeting.*

Consider all draft changes made to date to be placed on the Town Meeting Warrant

It was discussed by the Charter Review Committee and ultimately decided to bring a single article with all amendments to town meeting instead of multiple articles.

Review and Consider suggested changes from Town Counsel

2-2-3 Charter Review Committee agrees with Town Counsel notes.

2-3-2 Charter Review Committee agrees with Town Counsel notes.

ADD NEW SECTION was deleted.

2-4-2 Charter Review Committee agrees with Town Counsel notes.

*2-4-5 On the **motion by Sharon Bainbridge second by Jim Vining**, the Charter Review Committee **voted unanimously** to approve the suggested language from Town Counsel.*

2-4-6 Charter Review Committee agrees with Town Counsel notes.

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2-4-7 On the ***motion by George Dow Sr second by Jim Vining***, the Charter Review Committee ***voted unanimously*** to keep the original language of this section and not use Town Counsels recommended language.

2-4-8 Charter Review Committee agrees with Town Counsel notes.

2-4-9 Charter Review Committee agrees with Town Counsel notes.

2-4-10 On the ***motion by George Dow Sr second by Frank Twiss***, the Charter Review Committee ***voted unanimously*** to accept Town Counsels recommendation.

2-4-11 On the ***motion by George Dow Sr second by Jim Vining***, the Charter Review Committee ***voted unanimously*** to accept Town Counsels recommendation but delete the words "Subdivision" and "Planning".

3-1-1 Charter Review Committee agrees with Town Counsel notes.

3-1-2 On the ***motion by Sharon Bainbridge second by Frank Twiss***, the Charter Review Committee ***voted unanimously*** to delete the words "by the Town Clerk".

Change "his" to "their"

3-4-1 Charter Review Committee agrees with Town Counsel notes.

3-4-2 Charter Review Committee agrees with Town Counsel notes.

3-4-3 Charter Review Committee agrees with Town Counsel notes.

4-1-1 Charter Review Committee agrees with Town Counsel notes.

4-1-2 Charter Review Committee agrees with Town Counsel notes.

4-4-1 On the ***motion by George Dow Sr second by Frank Twiss***, the Charter Review Committee ***voted unanimously*** to accept Town Counsels recommendation and take out the word "doubtful".

Title Change for Chapter 5 - Charter Review Committee agrees with Town Counsel notes.

5-1-1 Charter Review Committee agrees with Town Counsel notes.

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5-1-4 Charter Review Committee agrees with Town Counsel notes.

5-2-1 *On the **motion by Sharon Bainbridge second by George Dow Sr**, the Charter Review Committee **voted unanimously** to remove the words “or offices” and include “Vacancies in other elected offices shall be filled in accordance with state law.”*

5-3-3 Charter Review Committee agrees with Town Counsel notes.

5-4-2 *On the **motion by Sharon Bainbridge second by Jim Vining**, the Charter Review Committee **voted 4 to 1, ultimately approving** to keep the language as is with the addition of “zoning and subdivision”.*

NEW SECTION *On the **motion by Sharon Bainbridge second by Frank Twiss**, the Charter Review Committee **voted unanimously** to remove the new section.*

6-1-1 Charter Review Committee agrees with Town Counsel notes.

6-3-1 Charter Review Committee agrees with Town Counsel notes.

6-5-1 *On the **motion by Frank Twiss second by Sharon Bainbridge**, the Charter Review Committee **voted unanimously** to accept recommended language.*

6-5-2 *On the **motion by Frank Twiss second by Jim Vining**, the Charter Review Committee **voted unanimously** to accept recommended language and strike the word “fulltime”.*

6-5-3 Charter Review Committee agrees with Town Counsel notes.

6-7-4 Charter Review Committee agrees with Town Counsel notes.

NEW SECTION- Charter Review Committee agrees with Town Counsel notes.

6-7-7 Charter Review Committee agrees with Town Counsel notes.

6-7-11 *On the **motion by Sharon Bainbridge second by George Dow Sr**, the Charter Review Committee **voted unanimously** to accept recommended language.*

6-8-3 Charter Review Committee agrees with Town Counsel notes.

6-8-4 Charter Review Committee agrees with Town Counsel notes.

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6-9-1 *On the **motion by Sharon Bainbridge second by George Dow Sr**, the Charter Review Committee **voted unanimously** to accept recommended language.*

7-2-1 Charter Review Committee agrees with Town Counsel notes.

7-4-2 Charter Review Committee agrees with Town Counsel notes.

7-4-3 Charter Review Committee agrees with Town Counsel notes.

7-4-4 Charter Review Committee agrees with Town Counsel notes.

ADD NEW SECTION *On the **motion by Sharon Bainbridge second by Jim Vining**, the Charter Review Committee **voted unanimously** to accept recommended language.*

7-4-5 Charter Review Committee agrees with Town Counsel notes.

7-4-6 Charter Review Committee agrees with Town Counsel notes.

7-5-1 *On the **motion by Frank Twiss second by Jim Vining**, the Charter Review Committee **voted unanimously** to accept the recommended striking of the word “the” and to change the word “shall” in the third line to “may”.*

7-6-1 Charter Review Committee agrees with Town Counsel notes.

7-10-1 Charter Review Committee agrees with Town Counsel notes.

7-11-1 Charter Review Committee agrees with Town Counsel notes.

8-1-1 Charter Review Committee agrees with Town Counsel notes.

8-2-1 Charter Review Committee agrees with Town Counsel notes.

9-5-2 Charter Review Committee agrees with Town Counsel notes.

10-1-1 *On the **motion by George Dow Sr second by Jim Vining**, the Charter Review Committee **voted unanimously** to have this section read “The Town Moderator shall appoint a new Charter Review Committee every 10 years. The Charter Review Committee shall review the Town Charter and make recommendations for appropriate revisions to town meeting.”*

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10-4-1 Charter Review Committee agrees with Town Counsel notes.

10-5-1 Charter Review Committee agrees with Town Counsel notes.

10-6-1 Charter Review Committee agrees with Town Counsel notes.

MISC CHANGES Charter Review Committee agrees with Town Counsel notes.

Public Comment

- Question on 2-4-11 answered and clarified.
- Question on if there is a need for the Charter Review sooner than 10 years, what happens?
- Question on citizen's petition.
- Concerns on 2-4-5 with changing the charter from making words available to requiring them to be mailed.
- Question 8-2-1 is this covered somewhere else?
- Cost of printing and mailing warrant.

Discuss Changes Brought Up in Public Comment

How frequent should Charter Review Committee be active and to what extent?

-After discussion it was decided that the language voted on tonight in 10-1-1 is sufficient.

****Important Votes****

*"On the **motion by Frank Twiss second by Jim Vining**, the Charter Review Committee **voted unanimously** to accept all the changes made tonight and appoint Trevor Currier, Natalie Lovett, and Sharon Bainbridge to review the redline version on the Charter on all the changes made up to date to go to Town Meeting."*

Updates & Announcements

None.

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Upcoming Meetings

Adjournment – *On the motion by Sharon Bainbridge second by Jim Vining, the Charter Review Committee **voted unanimously** to adjourn this meeting at 7:36pm.*

Respectfully submitted by,

Kristi M. Bialecki

Kristi M. Bialecki, Meetings Secretary

Natalie Lovett & Trevor Currier, Co-Chairs of Charter Review Committee

Documents either distributed to the Charter Review Committee before the meeting in a packet or at the meeting:

Charter Review Committee Agenda, 1 Page.

Proposed Changes Notes from Town Counsel