

**MINUTES – CHARTER REVIEW COMMITTEE  
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2016 AT 7:00 P.M.  
SETH VENTRESS BUILDING AUDITORIUM  
76 SOUTH RIVER STREET, MARSHFIELD**

Present: Alyssa Reed, Jonathan Grabowski, Bruce Spitler, Scott Borstel, Don Gibson, Robert Marzelli, and Barbara Farnworth

Excused: William Bowers and Dan Burke

Mr. Gibson, Vice-Chair opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m. and announced that Mr. Bowers and Mr. Burke were excused this evening and that the meeting was being recorded by MCTV. Mr. Gibson also mentioned that they have a light schedule this evening.

Acceptance of Minutes – Mr. Spitler moved seconded by Mr. Borstel to accept the minutes of October 5, 2016. The vote was unanimous.

Interview – Mike McNamara – Waterways Committee - Mr. McNamara was present this evening to represent the Waterways Committee. Mr. Gibson indicated that Dan Burke had sent Mr. McNamara a list of questions and asked to hear Mr. McNamara's comments to the questions. Mr. McNamara mentioned that he is the Chairman of the Waterways Committee and that they are charged with preserving the waterways and making them safe and navigable for the public. Mr. McNamara explained that they are basically an advisory committee for the Harbor Master.

Mr. Marzelli joined the meeting at 7:05 p.m.

Mr. McNamara then went on to share the following thoughts and comments:

- There should be guidelines in place in terms of how to operate, structure and rudimentary guidelines
- His committee has created associates because people frequently vacate committees and these associates can vote in the absence of a quorum. They act as full members except when it comes to voting. Mr. McNamara commented that have 7 members and two alternates Mr. McNamara also noted that they now have a vice-chairman.
- Mr. McNamara expressed the opinion that it is difficult to access the information in Town Government regarding who is responsible for each particular job and the dates when information should be submitted for capital budget and budget purposes and questioned if there was an internal Town calendar. Mr. McNamara indicated that the Town Government could be organized and more streamlined.
- Mr. McNamara mentioned that the Waterways Committee had presented a Waterways Management Plan to the Board of Selectmen which was acknowledged by the Board of Selectmen. Mr. McNamara said he felt the system is inefficient due to the overlapping of committees and that there should be liaisons with other committees such as Conservation and the Zoning Board of Appeals. Mr. McNamara noted that they always try to

- communicate with other boards and committees. Mr. McNamara said he thought it might be good for committee heads to get together once in a while.
- Mr. McNamara commented that he did not feel that advisory committees get the same respect as elected committees.

Mr. Gibson indicated that they are exploring how they can increase efficiency within the government and elected boards. Mr. McNamara continued on to say that some of the existing advisory boards don't feel as vital as the elected boards. Mr. McNamara explained that the Harbormaster is very industrious and a huge asset to the Town and that it would be tragic if he were to leave. Mr. McNamara also mentioned that appointed committees do not feel valued and they need to feel as though they are not wasting their time. Mr. Gibson asked Mr. McNamara about the budget and Mr. McNamara explained that the Waterways Committee does not have a budget and that recently the Treasurer's office has been in turmoil and that if the Harbormaster were to leave, they would be in trouble. Mr. Borstel indicated that the Harbormaster reports to the Police Chief. Ms. Reed asked if the Harbormaster was aware of his budget and Mr. McNamara said he is and that they would also like to be able to obtain the information as his budget is allocated in 3 different places. Mr. McNamara said that they would like to be able to communicate with other committees such as the Beach Committee and Seawall Committee but he said it appears those committees no longer exist.

Mr. McNamara also discussed his frustration with Town Meeting noting that it was ineffective, unproductive and zoo-like and that he would be in favor of a representative Town Meeting. Mr. McNamara also commented that people should be limited on how many articles that they can speak to and that there should be a pre-town meeting where people can get the answers to their questions ahead of time so they don't waste time at Town Meeting. Mr. Gibson then asked Mr. McNamara if he had ever submitted an article for Town Meeting and Mr. Gibson said yes, with the Harbormaster's assistance. Mr. McNamara also noted that the Harbormaster approves of the the Waterways Committee taking on more of a role.

Mr. McNamara also expressed his displeasure with the pace of municipal government and noted an example where they have been working with the Town of Scituate on a memorandum of understanding between Scituate and Marshfield with regard to the rules for taking care of the water and that Scituate has made more progress. Mr. McNamara noted that the Town doesn't take advantage of things sometimes such as a Finance Director which would free up more time for the Town Administrator and the Board of Selectmen to get things done and that is why the Town is very fractionated right now.

Mr. McNamara asked if he could speak as a taxpayer and Mr. Gibson reminded him that his comments should not be critical of individuals. Mr. McNamara mentioned the unfunded liability and that he hoped the Town was doing something about it. Mr. Borstel said that the Town did take steps a few years ago to address this problem. Mr. McNamara expressed the opinion that

something should be done to get this information to the taxpayers. Ms. Farnsworth mentioned that there is a line item at Town Meeting.

Mr. McNamara then discussed the fact that the Board of Selectmen, especially Steve Robbins and the Town Administrator are overworked and underpaid as they are at multiple evening meetings during the week and feels they that they are understaffed. Mr. McNamara expressed the opinion that they are constantly in a reactive mode and it hinders their efficiency. Mr. McNamara gave the example of when they have to do a dredging project, they have to go before anywhere between 4 and 7 organizations state wide and the Army Corps. of Engineers in order to get a permit to dredge. Mr. McNamara also explained that there are a couple of major projects that they have to deal with such as the dredging of Green Harbor and he noted that the jetty is at an angle in Green Harbor and needs to be straightened out and that they have been lucky to have the Army Corps. of Engineers to come out as often as they do. Mr. McNamara explained that the project to straighten out the jetty could cost about 4 million and take 5 to 7 years but the dredging problem would be solved. Mr. McNamara also noted that the Dyke over the Green Harbor River also needs to be redesigned and that this is a 10 year project.

Mr. Marzelli thanked Mr. McNamara for his comments and then recited the charge for the Waterways Committee which is in the Bylaws. Mr. Marzelli noted there are supposed to be 7 members and sympathized with Mr. McNamara in that they don't know what is expected of them. Mr. McNamara asked that they give people some validation, guidelines and a means to accomplish things. Mr. Marzelli asked if he had a full committee and Mr. McNamara said there should be one after this coming Monday night. Mr. Marzelli asked if Mr. McNamara would like to be on an elected committee and Mr. McNamara indicated that he would not have the time to run for an elected committee. Mr. Marzelli mentioned that the Waterways Committee was created to be a buffer between the recreational boaters and the commercial fishermen. Mr. McNamara commented that one of the reasons Green Harbor gets dredged is because of commercial fishing but he thinks in 10 to 15 years there will be more recreational boaters. Mr. Gibson thanked Mr. McNamara on being so prepared this evening with his comments and mentioned that if he had any more comments or suggestions, he should put them in writing and forward them to the Charter Committee.

Process to Address Proposed Changes Article by Article and Subject by Subject – Mr. Gibson asked Mr. Marzelli how the former Charter Committee went about making changes. Mr. Marzelli indicated that they went through the Charter article by article and discussed what changes would be made. Mr. Marzelli then explained that they made the draft changes and modifications according to the Chapter 42B process at which time it went to Town Meeting for a 2/3 vote and then was voted on the ballot. Mr. Borstel indicated that what the Committee did in 2002 was a useful platform for them. Mr. Spitler agreed and mentioned that they don't need to start from scratch, there are minimalistic changes and they need to look at the elements such as Town Manager vs. Town Administrator and that the Town Government could replicate the school structure. Mr. Marzelli indicated that they need to identify the problems first

and whether or not they are related to the Charter or the Bylaws. Mr. Marzelli mentioned that some of the recommendations that they have received have had nothing to do with the Charter and noted that there is significant dysfunction in the Town. Mr. Marzelli believes this Committee has already started to bring about some change in Town government.

Ms. Reed asked how they would envision the ideal structure. Mr. Borstel suggested a carousel approach where each article is written on a poster board and they go around and make suggestions and comments on each one. Mr. Gibson mentioned that at their next meeting they will have a representative from the Historical Commission as well as the Open Space Committee and suggested they delay the carousel meeting until December. Mr. Borstel explained the carousel process further in that after they are done putting their notes and comments on the posters, they can then walk around and view their notes cohesively.

Mr. Gibson noted that the Committee will not be able to bring anything forward to the Annual Town Meeting in the spring and all the members agreed that they will probably not be ready until the Special Town Meeting in the fall.

Ms. Reed questioned looking at other Town Charters and Ms. Farnsworth indicated that she does have copies and Ms. Farnsworth and Mr. Borstel both thought they should identify Marshfield's needs before they look at other town's charters. Ms. Farnsworth said that they do have a list of comparables ready.

Mr. Gibson noted that the next meeting will be November 17, 2016 and that they could have the carousel meeting on December 15, 2016. Mr. Borstel suggested doing analysis markers between now and the 15<sup>th</sup> of December and said that by that time they should know what they want to address. Mr. Gibson mentioned that on December 1<sup>st</sup> they could discuss the Collins Report, DOR and the Economic Development. Mr. Borstel said he would be in charge of getting the posters for the carousel meeting.

Public Comment – Mr. Gibson noted that there was nobody present for public comment so he closed this portion of the meeting and mentioned that the next meeting will be November 17, 2016 at the Seth Ventress Building at 7:00 p.m. with representatives from the Historical Commission, Open Space Committee and possibly another guest.

Mss. Farnsworth moved, seconded by Mr. Marzelli to adjourn the meeting at 8:28 p.m. The vote was unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Beverly Wiedemann

Documents and exhibits presented at this meeting were the following: Minutes of October 5, 2016.