

Town Of Marshfield
Charter Review Committee Meeting Minutes
Seth Ventress Building Auditorium
June 23, 2016

Present: William Bowers, Donald Gibson, Barbara Farnsworth, Dr. Scott Borstel, Bruce Spitler, Alyssa (McNamara) Reed, Daniel Burke and Jonathan Grabowski
Absent: Robert Marzelli, Esq.

The meeting was called to order at 7:10 PM.

Minutes of June 2, 2016 Meeting: Ms. Farnsworth moved to accept as amended, Mr. Gibson seconded, and the motion was passed (8:0:1 abstain, Mr. Spitler).

Stephen Robbins, Selectman, was present to assist the Committee.

Old Business

The Committee reviewed the survey data and discussed the opinions expressed in the survey and what appeared to be trends. Among the main themes perceived were : people are afraid of change; support for financial management and financial responsibility with questioning of who has the power in these cases; direct democracy verses representative democracy; a need for change in the way Town Meeting is run; the abuse of Special Town Meeting; a change in the number of Selectmen; change from elected to appointed for the Town Clerk and the DPW; opposition to “Sum of Money” in articles of the warrant; need for a Town Manager; and comments and frustrations about the length of Town Meeting and how it’s run. The members also discussed ideas to help explain the different options and many potential solutions that are available to the Town. The Committee will make the survey results public by down loading a pdf. of the results and posting it on the website, and by printing a copy to be put in the Committee’s files (accessible in the Selectmen’s Office) at Town Hall if one needs to see a hard copy.

The Committee worked on the development of focus group interview questions.

New Business

Open Meeting Laws was discussed and Mr. Bowers read the email that Mr. Galvin sent him, summarizing his recent research around the Open Meeting Law. Mr.

Burke invited the Board of Selectmen, the Town Clerk and the former moderator to our next meeting.

Discussion followed on the formulation of interview dates and times for meetings, and what process and questions to ask the invited boards. Mr. Gibson moved that we consolidate all of the questions in substance pending editorial changes, Mr. Grabowski seconded, and the motion was passed.

The Committee has been invited to attend the School Building Committee Meeting on June 28th at 7 PM at the Marshfield High Library and will send a subcommittee consisting of Mr. Bowers, Mr. Spitler, and Dr. Borstel. That meeting will be posted to comply with Open Meeting Law requirements.

The meeting scheduled for June 30th will be changed to June 29th. Future meetings will be held at the Seth Ventress Building except for July 28st. The Public Forum's will be held on September 15th at the Martinson Middle School and on September 28th, tentatively at the Governor Winslow School.

Concerning the Marshfield Mariner article topics, Mr. Bowers suggested including a schedule of meetings and describing the available information on the web site.

Ms. Farnsworth moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:41 PM, Mr. Gibson seconded, and the motion was passed.

Next meeting

Wednesday, June 29, 2016, 7:00 PM, Seth Ventress Building

Respectfully Submitted,

Maria Hebert, Secretary