

CHARTER REVIEW COMMITTEE MINUTES

DATE OF MEETING: **Thursday, August 25, 2016**

TIME: **6:30 PM**

PLACE: **Marshfield Town Hall
Snow Rd., Meeting Room #3**

Attendance: William Bowers, Don Gibson, Bob Marzelli, Dan Burke, Jonathan Grabowski, Alyssa Reed, Barbara Farnsworth, Scott Borstel, Bruce Spitler

Absent: Don Gibson

Call To Order: 6:35 p.m.

The meeting involved presentations from several town boards. These included:

1. Planning Board- presented by Karen Horne, Planning Board chair and Greg Guimond – town planner

- Planning Board presented a summary of their Board's positions, which are attached to this report.
- Greg G. stated he is not in favor of change in the structure of town government. In favor of open town meeting. Feels that a structure other than open town meeting will lead to an autocratic form of Government.
- Feel that the current charter works well for the Planning Board. Planning Board has no position on changing Town Administrator to Town Manager
- Feels that Planning Board should remain elected and length of terms should remain five years, due to learning curve involved for new members.
- Planning board feels that Changes to zoning / planning need to be made at the board level and not at town meeting
- Don't make town meeting "live" on television- make people attend the meeting, not watch on TV
- Have more than one town meeting-recommend having a fall and spring meeting
- Recommend looking at amount of time people have to speak (2 mins)- control it better
- Recommend looking at lottery format (has it improved attendance)

See Attachment – Planning Board Overview

2. Zoning Board- presented by Joseph Kelleher, ZBA chair, Brian Murphy and Frank Hubbard, ZBA members.

The Zoning Board members addressed the committee in regards to how each Questions.

ZBA said that a change in the town government structure would not affect Their operations. ZBA did recommend that the town government needs to get the Town Planner involved in their process and would like to see the Planner attend their meetings on a regular basis. Feels that town planner Should be an ex-officio member of their board.

ZBA did not see a need or offer opinion on the position of town administrator. Expressed concern that Town administrator does not have the ability to direct or oversee town hall or town employees.

Brian Murphy (BM) expressed personal opinions that the BOS should be Enlarged to five members from three due to the amount of work necessary. JK expressed concern that their would not be enough qualified or dedicated People to do this.

In regards to how town government can become more efficient, they stated:

- concern with antiquated town by-laws. Cited a number of cases that came before them, which could be solved with a full review of by-laws and changes that should be instituted by the Planning Board.
- town hall and town by-laws very unfriendly to businesses and applicants to ZBA. Feel that by-laws should be modified to not require a site plan review or appoint a individual person who is capable of doing site plan reviews in order to facilitate a quicker process for homeowners and small businesses.
- Asked about role of having a zoning administrator- a charter change could delegate small issues to a person, not ZBA. Would you also consider a design review board to simplify process
- town boards should have much better communication. Planning Board crafts by-laws and by-law changes but ZBA who enforces them have input into these and receive no communication regarding the process of these changes.

In regards to the question of elected/appointed boards, the ZBA feels that Should stay appointed, since it is their job to offer interpretations of By-laws.

In regards to position of finance director, ZBA as a board had no position But B.M. expressed a personal opinion that Nancy Holt was Was outstanding and that the position of finance director is necessary And need someone with strong qualifications.

In regards to comparing Marshfield to other towns, members felt that do to

The size of the zoning book and the antiquated nature of our by-laws
As well as the extensive process, that Marshfield is a very difficult
Place to do business with their board. Feel Zoning book and by-laws
Need to be reviewed.

In regards to Town Meeting, feel that communication needs to be greatly
Improved amongst all departments. B.M. said he was in favor of
Keeping the lottery.

3. Board of Assessors- presented by Jack Cantwell, Board member and Libby Bates, Town Assessor

- see attached pages with comments from Libby Bates . These comments were reviewed in depth in their presentation.
- Jack Cantwell stated that he was in favor of a town manager, similar to Duxbury.
- Libby Bates stated that the town needed a strong finance team, which it had till 24 months ago. Need to do a better job in hiring. Feels Assessor should be independent of a Finance Director, not under the finance director.
- Jack C. asked for clarification on current title of treasurer/collector, thought that Nancy H. was a finance director. Jack C. also stated that he thought town meeting should be on a Saturday, instead of during the week.

4. Community Preservation Committee- presented by Kevin Cantwell, CPC Chair.

Mr. Cantwell discussed the process of how the CPC goes through preparing Articles for town Meeting, as well as how they identify their budget for Preparing articles. Cantwell said that they do have difficulty finding out how Much money the CPC has in their accounts and discussed that the CPC would Like to see this corrected within the finance dept. and town management.

The CPC had no position on elected or appointed positions changing or on Issues with how the CPC works with the current charter. The CPC does not Have any issues with the warrant or how it is developed in relation to their Department since their articles are usually ready far ahead of time.

The CPC is concerned with the number of times , that at Town Meeting, Members spend considerable time asking questions of articles that were extensively reviewed in their committee meetings.

Mr. Cantwell made a few personal observations. He was in favor of a mayor And Town Council form of government. He is against Sat. town meeting.

Public Comment-

- **Joe Pecevich**- talked about planning and zoning, need for bos to go to 5 and flex more power
- feels that no one will run against certain people
- feels votes allow people to vote for only one
- feels Zba does not follow by-laws, does not vet properly, does not follow zba checklist
- likes idea of separating site plan decisions from zba
- key to get more public input is to bring more items to ballot
- **Kathy Galvin**-
 - has tried to get on boards, but turned down because not in the right side of issue
 - concerned about town meeting and where guests are sitting
 - feels better publicity around meetings. List all meetings on television
 - expansion of live broadcasts

Review of Minutes

The committee adopted the minutes for the meeting of August 11, 2016 in a unanimous vote by those present.

Adjournment- a unanimous vote was taken to adjourn at 9:25 p.m.