

Weymouth Charter Review Committee  
August 17 2009  
Weymouth Town Council Chambers

Meeting called to order by Mayor Susan Kay at 5:32 pm.  
Mayor Kay asked for introduction of all members

Present: Barbara Deacon, Chairperson  
Sandra Williams, Vice-Chairperson  
Michael Smart  
Arthur Mathews  
James Wilson  
Claire Cunningham  
Michael Gallagher  
Sean Guilfoyle

Not Present: John Reilly

Mayor Kay the opened up the nominations for the officers of the committee. Nominations were opened for the Chair of the committee, there was one nomination by Jim Wilson which was seconded; Barbara Deacon. The nominations were closed and a unanimous vote was cast giving Barbara Deacon the chair. Mayor Kay left at this point.

Nominations were opened by the Chair for Vice Chair, there was one nomination made by Michael Smart which was seconded; Sandra Williams. The nominations were closed and a unanimous vote was cast giving the Vice Chair to Sandra Williams.

There was a motion to table the appointment of a Secretary until the next meeting, moved seconded and passed.

The Solicitor was asked for his thoughts on the process and to explain what is the actual charge of the committee. Mr. Lane shared with the committee his meeting and subsequent follow up letter by Michael Curran which explained in detail what the charge of the committee is and what it is allowed to review and make recommendations on. In general terms, at the end of the charter review process, the recommendations will be sent to the Weymouth Town Council by May 1 2010. After the review of the Town Council, the document changes are forwarded to the Mayor's office. After the review of the Mayor's office, the changes will be put to residents of the town for a vote.

Councilor Mathews asked that the committee does not break into sub groups to review certain aspects of the charter and ordinances. It was also noted that the makeup of the Mayor's office and Town Council cannot be addressed by an appointed review committee; this can only be done with an elected charter review committee.

There was discussion around meeting times and dates. The first item was that meetings should be held at 7pm as this more convenient to both residents wanting to attend the

meetings and the members of the committee. It was thought that a “regular” interval between meetings would make it easier for all concerned to plan for the meetings. Beginning in October, meetings will be held on the second and fourth Tuesdays of the Month. For the Month of September, the meetings will be held on the 14<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> at 7pm in the Council Chambers.

Councilor Mathews then brought up the need for a recording secretary and the funds to hire that person. Council President (CP) Smart will be in contact with the Mayor to identify the funds. There was also discussion to add a public comment section to the agenda. In addition, the Agenda should be posted on the website. Mr. Gallagher said that he would make sure that the agenda is posted.

CP Smart noted that there is need for copies of both the charter and ordinances available to both the committee and the public for use during the meetings. Sean Guilfoyle said he would take care of that and have 20 copies for the next meeting.

Councilor Mathews brought up the need to set a budget for the committee and made a motion to ask the Mayor’s office for 5 thousand dollars to hire a recording secretary, seconded by Jim Wilson. Voted unanimously. Councilor Mathews then made a motion to ask the Mayor’s office for 1 thousand dollars publications, printing and advertising, seconded by Jim Wilson. Voted unanimously.

Jim Wilson made a motion that to allow the Chair of the committee to authorize invoices for the committee, seconded by Councilor Mathews. Voted unanimously.

Meeting Adjourned at 6:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Sean Guilfoyle

Members Present: