

UXBRIDGE CHARTER REVIEW COMMITTEE

2/15/2021 MEETING MINUTES

The sixteenth meeting of the Uxbridge Charter Review Committee, held on a Zoom platform, was called to order by Chair Patrick Stephan at 6:37 PM, Monday, February 15, 2021.

Members Present: Patrick Stephan, Chairman; Ray Talke, Clerk; including Committee Members: Atty. Rob Knapik, Michael Potaski, Dr. Joann Lindenmayer and Barry Desruisseaux.

Members Absent: Melissa Desmarais, Chief Jeff Lourie and Ron Parsons

Participating remotely from office: Donna C. Hardy, Assistant

Open Public Forum: Ms. Hardy was the only individual present for Citizens' Forum.

OLD BUSINESS:

Meeting Minutes:

MOTION by Mr. Potaski to accept the amended meeting minutes of February 1, 2021. Motion was seconded by Atty. Knapik. Motion carried 5-0-1 (Mr. Desruisseaux abstained).

Input from the Community:

A few responses were received from the survey put on the Uxbridge website. One response to the community survey suggested that the Committee should address the issue that the Board of Selectmen (BOS) and Town Manager are both involved, at times, with day-to-day activities. The Committee should determine, if possible, if the BOS should be an executive authority or advisory committee with respect to powers and duties assigned to the Town Manager.

NEW BUSINESS:

Discussion of deliberation of topics and set order on deliberation topics.

Discussion revolved around the roles for the Charter and the Town's Bylaws and how well town government works with both. The Committee recognizes that certain recommendations may belong in the Bylaws rather than in the Charter.

The committee also discussed how to get information out to the public via the newspaper, social media and what would be considered to be the best approach to reach most residents.

NEW BUSINESS continued:**Discussion of deliberation of topics and set order on deliberation topics.**

After much discussion, the committee came up with the Top 5 deliberation topics to discuss:

- | | |
|---------------------------------|------------------------|
| 1) Water & Sewer Commissioners | 4) Police & Fire Chief |
| 2) DPW Department | 5) Board of Selectmen |
| 3) Town Manager | |
| 1) Water & Sewer Commissioners: | |

There was much debate about this deliberation topic, which was initiated based on several recommendations in interviews conducted by the Committee suggesting that the responsibilities of Water and Sewer Commissioners should be separated from the powers and duties of the Selectmen. The committee noted that a Water and Sewer Commission should be separate from a Highway Commission or Public Works Commission. - There was discussion about qualifications for members of a Water and Sewer Commission (public utility professionals, tax payers, residents, engineers or other persons of interest) and whether or not the BOS should be the appointing authority. The discussion continued about having the Water and Sewer Commission as a decision-making authority or as an advisory committee. .

To summarize, the committee is in favor of having a separate Water and Sewer Commission and further input will be sought from residents and town officials about the potential roles of the BOS and Water and Sewer Commission

A motion was entered on the floor to establish a Water and Sewer Commission separate from the BOS. However, a second to the motion was withdrawn.

Mr. Desruisseaux left the meeting.

Chairman Stephan recommended that the committee be very specific of the verbiage to be used for topics to go forward on the Fall Town Meeting Warrant. The verbiage used for the Warrant Article submitted by the Charter Review Committee at the Fall Town Meeting 2012 can be used for examples.

Call to action:

Clerk Talke will connect with Town Manager Steve Sette to make a Formal Public Records Request for the Exit Interviews.

Lastly, Chairman Stephan expressed gratitude to the members of this committee for handling the discussions in a civil, professional and positive manner.

MOTION to adjourn by Mr. Potaski. Motion was seconded by Atty. Knapik. Motion carried **5-0-0**. The meeting adjourned at approximately 828 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna C. Hardy

Uxbridge Charter Review Committee Assistant

