

2016 ANNUAL TOWN MEETING  
APRIL 2, 2016

**ARTICLE 34:**

To see if the Town will vote to amend section 7-6-1 of the Town Charter to read as follows: At least once every five years, a special committee shall be appointed by the Moderator to review this Charter and submit a report, with recommendations, to the Citizens of Plymouth and Representative Town Meeting concerning any proposed amendments which the committee may determine to be necessary or desirable. Said report shall be published in the local paper of record and on the Town's website within 14 days of completion, or take any action relative thereto.

BY PETITION Steven Striar et al.

## Article 34

The purpose of this warrant article is to amend chapter 7 section 6-1 of the Town Charter. The existing language reads:

At least once every 5 years, a special committee shall be appointed by the town moderator to review this charter and to make a report, with recommendations, to the representative town meeting concerning any proposed amendments which the committee may determine to be necessary or desirable.

As proposed, the amended section would read:

At least once every 5 years, a special committee shall be appointed by the Moderator to review this charter and submit a report, with recommendations, to the Citizens of Plymouth and representative town meeting concerning any proposed amendments which the committee may determine to be necessary or desirable. Said report shall be published in the local paper of record and on the Towns website within 14 days of completion.

However, it is my intent to revise this article either before town meeting if possible or as an amendment on town meeting floor to remove the requirement of publication in the local paper of record.

My reason for proposing this Charter amendment is simple. It comes from the the first words of the Charter itself.

“We, the people of the Town of Plymouth,.....”

The language of the preamble is clear. I believe it is the cornerstone of the document. This is The Peoples Charter and it should be treated as such. It may seem a small thing. And on it's own mean little but 'We the People', as noted in the preamble need to be reminded of our responsibilities with respect to the conduct of our government and we should not give them up freely.

In addition, I am hopeful the publication requirement will provide the public with improved and timely access to the same important information that is provided to their representatives at Town Meeting.