

Precinct 8 _ April 13, 2023 Meeting Minutes

Precinct 8 Town Meeting Members in attendance: George McKay, Chair, Don Williams, Vice Chair, Geri Williams, Jeannette McKay, Sybil Holland, Terry McKenna, Mary Tincher and Jamie Grillo via Zoom

Also present were members of the Cedarville Steering Committee including Kathryn Holmes, Gerri Hooker, Therese Brennan and Jody Burkett.

Guests present who were invited to speak included Bill Abbott, Bill Keohan, David Peck and Steve Boliton on the new Charter, and candidates for Select Board: Richard Quintal, Frank Mand, Wrestling Brewster, Kevin Canty and Vedna Heywood. Everett Malagutti was invited but did not attend.

Also present were a number of citizens of Precinct 8 and surrounding precincts

George McKay opened the meeting at 7:30pm and introduced all Town Meeting Members and Karen MacDonald who is running to become a TMM.

Terry McKenna made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 23, 2023 Precinct caucus and Jeannette McKay seconded the motion. All voted to approve.

George explained that the proposed New Charter will be on the ballot on May 20 with a simple yes or no vote. He had emailed to all members the Red lined version of the Proposed New Charter, the League of Women Voters spread sheet summary of changes and the impacts, and the cost sheet of possible costs for the New Charter. George stated that there would be no debate this evening, just presentations. Each side for and against the charter would have 15 minutes to provide information and each candidate for Select Board would have 6 minutes.

In support of the New Charter Bill Abbott, Chair of the Charter Commission, provided background information on the history of Plymouth Charters, and the research on other charters and forms of government done by the Charter Commission and the professional support they received.

David Peck , a Charter Commission member who was elected committed to a council form of government, explained how he became convinced of the improvements to the charter that the Commission worked hard to create. He went over some of the most important improvements: increase the number of Select Board Members to 7 with 3 elected from representative districts; more collaboration between the Committee of Precinct Chairs and the Select Board and Town Manager; enhanced incorporation of the new Master Plan in all aspects of government, the establishment of an Appointment Advisory Committee to seek and screen qualified applicants for the various Town Committees, and some other important factors.

Bill Keohan spoke briefly on how the New Charter will make our government work better.

Steve Bolton, a member of the Town Planning Commission and Plymouth First spoke against the New Charter. He stated the document does not make Town government more efficient. It requires more of the Town Manager, probably requiring more staff. The Select Board will be mandated to meet with more committees. He said there will no enforcement of the code of conduct and conflict of interest provisions. Mr. Bolton pointed out other faults he considered the new Carter contains.

After the Charter presentations, each of the candidates for Select Board spoke for 6 minutes or so about their background, why they were running, what they saw as problems within the Town and what they hoped to accomplish.

After the candidate presentations a motion to adjourn was made by Geri Williams and seconded by Jeannette McKay at 8:58pm. Meeting was adjourned.
(Several members of the audience continued questioning some of the candidates for a few minutes off the record in small group discussions.)

Minutes submitted by Geri Williams, Precinct 8 Clerk