

TOWN OF PLYMOUTH

CHARTER REVIEW COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

JUNE 4, 2024

*Pursuant to Governor Baker's March 12, 2020, Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L. c. 30A, §18 and further updates, this meeting was conducted in a **Hybrid format**. A Zoom Meeting link was provided.*

These minutes are not verbatim – they are the recording secretary's interpretation of what took place at the meeting, per Open Meeting Law, G.L. C 30A, § 22.

The Charter Review Committee held a scheduled meeting on Tuesday, May 21, 2024, 6 PM, at the Plymouth Townhall, Ropewalk Meeting Room, 2nd Floor, 26 Court Street, Plymouth, MA 02360.

In attendance: Alan Costello, Chair, Steve Bolotin, Vice Chair, Len Levin, Clerk and members, Mike Hanlon, Joseph Hutchinson, Tim Lawlor, Laurence Pizer and Martha Vautrain.

Absent: Betty Cavacco

Staff assistant, Michelle Turner, was present, via Zoom.

CALL TO ORDER

Alan Costello, Chair, called the meeting to order at 6 PM, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

Minutes of May 21, 2024

Steve Bolotin MOTIONED to approve the Minutes, as presented, 2nd Laurence Pizer.

Mr. Lawlor was not yet in attendance for the approval of the Minutes.

	YES	NO	ABSTAIN		YES	NO	ABSTAIN
Steve Bolotin, VCH	X				Len Levin	X	
Betty Cavacco					Laurence Pizer	X	
Alan Costello	X				Martha Vautrain		X
Mike Hanlon			X				
Joe Hutchinson	X				All members are full standing members with no alternates.		
Tim Lawlor							

MOTION PASSED 5-0-2

PUBLIC COMMENT

Al Denardo, Precinct 17 – Thanks the Committee for their vote on the proposed changes to the School Committee, Chapter 4, Section 3 (changes shown below). He will be supporting this vote at Town Meeting.

No other public comment made.

Section 3 School Committee

~~4-3-1 The School Committee shall have all powers which are conferred on School Committees by law, this Charter, bylaw, or otherwise and are not inconsistent with the grant of powers conferred by the General Laws:~~

4-3-~~12~~ The powers and duties of the School Committee shall include the following:

(a) To appoint a ~~superintendent~~ Superintendent of the schools who shall manage the school system in a fashion

consistent with law and the policy determinations of the School Committee and, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the School Committee may also establish and appoint positions of assistant or associate superintendents as provided by law.

(b) To establish educational goals and policies for the schools in the Town consistent with the requirements of law and statewide goals and standards established by the State Board of Education. (no changes)

(c) To propose and to oversee the administration of an annual operating budget for the School Department, subject to appropriation by the ~~Town Meeting~~ Representative Town Meeting. (voted 9-0-0 on 5/14/24)

~~(d) To have general charge and superintendence of all school buildings and grounds and furnish~~

~~all school buildings with proper fixtures, furniture and equipment.~~

4-3-~~23~~ The School Committee shall report on the state of the schools directly to ~~the Town Meeting~~ Representative Town Meeting at

least once each calendar year and shall meet jointly with the Select Board as directed by ~~section~~ Section 3-2-8 of this Charter.

Discussion Items:

Renumbering/Reformatting of the Charter (Revision 240602-2).

A subcommittee was formed at the 5/21/24 meeting (Alan Costello, Steve Bolotin, Len Levin and Laurence Pizer) to meet with Counsel and begin discussion on renumbering/reformatting the Charter.

A renumbered/reformatted Charter was distributed via email by Mr. Levin. This document incorporated some of the changes/additions/deletions made, but not all. The focus of the new 26 page document was reorganizing and renumbering.

The subcommittee is discussing strategy on how to present the changes. Mr. Levin suggested a 2nd document which would connect the current charter to the proposed charter – with the noted changes in each section.

The Chair noted a meeting held with Town Counsel earlier that day to discuss the changes and how to present the Article to Town Meeting. Mr. Costello was focused on the Committee accepting the reorganized charter being presented on June 4, 2024. The document must explain the changes as best as possible so there is no confusion with Town Meeting members.

Mr. Pizer noted the meeting held with Town Counsel to be one of the best working meetings. One of the most successful things to do with the renumbering is to present to Town Meeting the proposed changes and then allow the Town Clerk to present the finished product.

Steve Bolotin said the subcommittee tried to organize the charter in a logical order. The new charter should be user-friendly.

Mr. Pizer was pleased with the new format.

<Tim Lawlor arrived at the meeting at 6:30 pm.>

Mr. Levin noted that changes were made by the subcommittee that needed to be voted on by the Committee, as follows:

Page 5 – Chapter 2 Heading

CHAPTER 2

TOWN WIDE ELECTED TOWN BOARDS AND OFFICERS

Steve Bolotin MOTIONED accept the change to add the words TOWN WIDE to the heading, 2nd Alan Costello

	YES	NO	ABSTAIN			YES	NO	ABSTAIN
Steve Bolotin, VCH	X				Len Levin	X		
Betty Cavacco					Laurence Pizer	X		
Alan Costello	X				Martha Vautrain	X		
Mike Hanlon	X							
Joe Hutchinson	X				All members are full standing members with no alternates.			
Tim Lawlor	X							

MOTION PASSED 8-0-0

Martha Vautrain MOTIONED to add the TOWN MODERATOR to section 2-1-1, as shown below,
2nd Joseph Hutchinson

2-1-1 Beginning with the first town election held after the effective date of this Charter, the town shall elect the following boards and offices:

a select board of five (5) members;

a planning board of five (5) members;

a school committee of seven (7) members who shall be elected for three-year (3) overlapping terms;

a town moderator;

a housing authority of five (5) members, four (4) to be elected, and one (1) to be appointed in accordance with applicable law, for five-year (5) overlapping terms; and

a redevelopment authority of five (5) members, four (4) to be elected, and one (1) to be appointed in accordance with applicable law, for five-year (5) overlapping terms.

	YES	NO	ABSTAIN			YES	NO	ABSTAIN
Steve Bolotin, VCH	X				Len Levin	X		
Betty Cavacco					Laurence Pizer	X		
Alan Costello	X				Martha Vautrain	X		
Mike Hanlon	X							
Joe Hutchinson	X				All members are full standing members with no alternates.			
Tim Lawlor	X							

MOTION PASSED 8-0-0

Laurence Pizer MOTIONED to add Sections 2-6 and 2-7 to Chapter 2, as shown below, 2nd Steve Bolotin.

a housing authority of five (5) members, four (4) to be elected, and one (1) to be appointed in accordance with applicable law, for five-year (5) overlapping terms; and

a redevelopment authority of five (5) members, four (4) to be elected, and one (1) to be appointed in accordance with applicable law, for five-year (5) overlapping terms.

	YES	NO	ABSTAIN			YES	NO	ABSTAIN
Steve Bolotin, VCH	X				Len Levin	X		
Betty Cavacco					Laurence Pizer	X		
Alan Costello	X				Martha Vautrain	X		
Mike Hanlon	X							
Joe Hutchinson	X				All members are full standing members with no alternates.			
Tim Lawlor	X							

MOTION PASSED 8-0-0

Mike Hanlon MOTIONED to reverse the order of Sections 2-5-2 and 2-5-3, as shown below, 2nd Joseph Hutchinson,

2-5-2 The Moderator shall preside at all Representative Town Meeting sessions.

2-5-3 The Moderator shall have no vote unless the Representative Town Meeting members present and voting are equally divided.

	YES	NO	ABSTAIN		YES	NO	ABSTAIN
Steve Bolotin, VCH	X			Len Levin	X		
Betty Cavacoe				Laurence Pizer	X		
Alan Costello	X			Martha Vautrain	X		
Mike Hanlon	X						
Joe Hutchinson	X			All members are full standing members with no alternates.			
Tim Lawlor	X						

MOTION PASSED 8-0-0

Mike Hanlon MOTIONED to delete Section 3-1-3a, as shown below, 2nd Laurence Pizer.

3-1 3a A Representative Town Meeting member who moves from the town shall cease to be a town meeting member and a Representative Town Meeting member who moves from the precinct from which the representative was elected to another precinct may serve only until the next annual town meeting. The Town Clerk shall also declare the seat vacant if the registrars of voters determine that the Representative Town Meeting member is illegally or incorrectly registered to vote in that precinct.

	YES	NO	ABSTAIN		YES	NO	ABSTAIN
Steve Bolotin, VCH	X			Len Levin	X		
Betty Cavacoe				Laurence Pizer	X		
Alan Costello	X			Martha Vautrain	X		
Mike Hanlon	X						
Joe Hutchinson	X			All members are full standing members with no alternates.			
Tim Lawlor	X						

MOTION PASSED 8-0-0

Mike Hanlon MOTIONED to retitle Chapter 4, Section 4 to REFERENDA, as shown below, 2nd Laurence Pizer

Section 4 3 Referendum [NOTE: Should be Referenda]

	YES	NO	ABSTAIN		YES	NO	ABSTAIN
Steve Bolotin, VCH	X			Len Levin	X		
Betty Cavacoe				Laurence Pizer	X		
Alan Costello	X			Martha Vautrain	X		
Mike Hanlon	X						
Joe Hutchinson	X			All members are full standing members with no alternates.			
Tim Lawlor	X						

MOTION PASSED 8-0-0

Tim Lawlor MOTIONED to change title of Chapter 4, Section 5 to TOWNWIDE EECTED OFFICEHOLDERS, as shown below, 2nd Len Levin

Section 5 4 Recalls

~~Town Wide Elected Office Holders~~

	YES	NO	ABSTAIN			YES	NO	ABSTAIN
Steve Bolotin, VCH	X				Len Levin	X		
Betty Cavacce					Laurence Pizer	X		
Alan Costello	X				Martha Vautrain	X		
Mike Hanlon	X							
Joe Hutchinson	X				All members are full standing members with no alternates.			
Tim Lawlor	X							

MOTION PASSED 8-0-0

Steve Bolotin MOTIONED to replace the text in Section 5-1 (d) with the text of Section 5-4, as shown below, 2nd Laurence Pizer.

d. establish, reorganize, consolidate or abolish any department or position under the Town Manager's direction and supervision with the approval of the Select Board; (May be in conflict with 5-4)

Replace with:

~~5-4~~ The Town Manager may, with Select Board approval and subject to applicable provisions of the general or special laws, re-organize, consolidate, or abolish town agencies in whole or in part, or provide for new town agencies. When incident to any such re-organization, with the approval of the Advisory and Finance Committee, the Town Manager shall direct the transfer all or a portion of the appropriation made for one town agency to another.

	YES	NO	ABSTAIN			YES	NO	ABSTAIN
Steve Bolotin, VCH	X				Len Levin	X		
Betty Cavacce					Laurence Pizer	X		
Alan Costello	X				Martha Vautrain	X		
Mike Hanlon	X							
Joe Hutchinson	X				All members are full standing members with no alternates.			
Tim Lawlor	X							

MOTION PASSED 8-0-0

Mike Hanlon MOTIONED to change the title of Chapter 6 to STATUTORILY REQUIRED PUBLIC BODIES, as shown below, 2nd Steve Bolotin.

CHAPTER ~~10-6~~

STATUTORILY ~~CREATED~~ REQUIRED PUBLIC BODIES

	YES	NO	ABSTAIN			YES	NO	ABSTAIN
Steve Bolotin, VCH	X				Len Levin	X		
Betty Cavacece					Laurence Pizer	X		
Alan Costello	X				Martha Vautrain	X		
Mike Hanlon	X							
Joe Hutchinson	X				All members are full standing members with no alternates.			
Tim Lawlor	X							

MOTION PASSED

The next meeting is Tuesday, June 18, 2024.

The meeting adjourned at 8:15 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle A. Turner

Michelle A. Turner

Minutes Approved on: June 18, 2024