

**Hybrid form of Town Government based on**  
**Form 2 of the Document titled**  
**“Forms of Local Government Commonwealth of Massachusetts”**  
**(Council/Manager)**

**Town Manager**

- 1) Appointed by Council Members and must not be a registered Town voter or own property in the Town such that there will be no conflict of interest in decision making
- 2) Town Manger should be a “strong” manager such that he or she does not answer to the will of the Council Members
- 3) Town Manager appoints an assistant Town manger pending the approval of the Council Members.
- 4) Town Manager can appoint, discipline, or remove Town Department Heads
- 5) Town Manager could consider a non-scheduled pay raise for a Town Department Head if the Town Council recommends one in order retain his or her services. This would also have to be within approved “contingency monies” to stay within the approved budget for that year.

**Council Members (Formerly the Selectboard)**

- 1) One Council Member shall be elected from each of the Town villages for a total of five Council Members.
- 2) Council Members appoint the Town Manager and have the capacity to recommend his or her removal pending the agreement of Precinct Representatives and a Town Meeting vote.
- 3) Council Members, their spouses, or their siblings, cannot be or have been employed by the town to reduce conflict of interest concerns
- 4) Council Members are subject to term limits
- 5) Council Members shall make policy subject to the approval of the Town Manager and Town Legal Counsel.
- 6) Council Members along with Town Meeting approve or disapprove the Town Budget
- 7) Council Members do not have any authority over the Town Manager concerning his or her oversight of Town Department Heads or how the departments are organized.
- 8) Council Members do not have the authority to authorize raises for Town Department Heads, however they can make recommendations to the Town Manager for raises to retain a Department Head that may be considering employment elsewhere or to recommend a person within that department to either take over or act as an interim department head.

**Precinct Representative**

- 1) One (or no more than three) Precinct Representative shall be elected from each Precinct
- 2) Each Precinct Representative holds Precinct Meetings in his or her Precinct regarding issues on warrants that will be presented to Town Meeting. This will gauge what the people of that precinct want and to make comments on these warrants. i.e.: If a majority of meeting members approve of the warrant, then the Precinct Representative attends the Town Meeting and casts a vote in favor of the warrant on behalf of the people of his or her precinct. Once all the Precinct Representatives cast their vote on a particular warrant and a majority vote has occurred, that

warrant is moved onto Town Meeting and Town meeting members will then vote on the approved warrants.

- 3) Monthly Precinct Caucus Meetings to listen to and answer questions from citizens
- 4) Precinct Representatives should explore ways to get citizens to engage in Town Government such that voting numbers will increase and younger people will be more inclined to run for town offices, committees etc,

## **Town Meeting**

- 1) Town Meeting shall maintain the same responsibilities under the current Charter
- 2) Town Meeting Members, their spouses, or their siblings, cannot be or have been employed by the town to reduce conflict of interest concerns
- 3) Town Meeting Members are subject to term limits.
- 4) If possible, the quantity of Town Meeting Members from each Precinct needs to be reduced and should be an odd number. Nine members from each precinct for a total of 123 members based on the current fifteen precincts is to large to enable debate on warrants.

Good evening.

My name is Ken Cristofori and I am a 67 year lifelong resident of Plymouth. My parents were also lifelong residents. I presently reside within Precinct 13.

I listened to the Selectboard Meeting last Tuesday and I totally disagree with their decision to possibly place a non-binding referendum on the next election ballot for the options of three types of governments. I realize that this was going to be reviewed by Town Counsel.

This is ludicrous for the sole reason that the three forms of government were presented by the selectboard with absolutely no debate. What basis did they use to present these types of governments? Isn't this the Charter Commission's task since the people voted for the Commission to do this and not the Selectboard? This will more than likely result in utter confusion for most if not all residents for the sole reason that once the Charter Commission finishes its work and recommends a form of government, the Commission's recommendation more than likely will disagree with what the voters voted for in a nonbinding vote. Once again it appears that the selectboard is taking a reactive approach instead of a proactive approach which emphasizes once again why there is a need for change in town government from the way it presently is working.

If the Charter Commission was elected by the people to make a recommendation as to what form of government should possibly be chosen by the people to be adopted by the Town of Plymouth, this Commission should be allowed to follow through with its scope of work.

It appears that this Commission is following the guidelines as outlined in a document titled "Local Charters" which can be obtained from the State of Massachusetts online at [www.sec.state.ma.us/elections@sec.state.ma.us](http://www.sec.state.ma.us/elections@sec.state.ma.us). This document outlines very clearly as to the steps that need to be taken, such as open meetings, public meetings, the completion of a Preliminary Report, the completion of a Final Report, Charter Commission Minority Report as well as the timelines for each action.

I realize that the Commission has a rather daunting task because whatever the outcome is, there will always be people who disagree. Therefore, the commission needs to be given the required time to perform their scope of work without undue pressure from the selectboard. I also hope that the Commission takes advantage of Mr. Malaguti's long standing service on various town boards for his historical knowledge of Town Government

I have also spoken to a number of people as to what type of government they would like to see and have come up with a hybrid form of government based on Form 2 "Council/Manager" which is shown on the document "Forms of Government Commonwealth of Massachusetts"

My speaking time limit does not allow me to talk about some of the suggestions and ideas that are shown, but I respectfully will submit them to the Charter Commission for your review and hopefully some of these ideas will have some merit.

I do have a couple of questions:

- 1) When will the public meetings be held such that people will be able to make comments on what you may or may not be proposing?
- 2) When may some type of schematic outline be available that could show the weakness and strengths of the current form of government along with what recommendations are being addressed? This document could be updated after each Charter Commission Meeting to enable the public to understand what is being worked on better.
- 3) Are the four forms of local government that are shown on the document Forms of Local Government need to be taken verbatim or can they be hybridized?

I thank you for the opportunity to speak.

