

**Charter Commission Meeting 11-16-21, Public Comment
Peter Neville Prct. 10 TMM**

Mr. Neville introduced himself and then reiterated his appreciation to the Commissioners for their commitment of time and talent to the process of reviewing and considering the current Charter's applicability to the current and future governance of The Town of Plymouth.

Mr. Neville referred to the earlier discussion of item 1 on this evening's agenda where the size of Town Meeting was discussed, and he asked the Commissioners to be mindful of the seven thousand signatures that signed the petition asking for a Commission to undertake the task before them. He suggested that many people are looking for a change.

Referring to item 1 agenda discussion and the suggestions that the town would be better served with a strong council, a strong town manager, and elected town meeting members, he asked how such suggestions would be captured for consideration when assembling draft charters for public review. He alluded to the excellent letter by Anatol Zukerman, a Plymouth resident, who published his recommendations for a more efficient form of government in the Nov. 12 issue of the Old Colony Memorial. (Should be noted here that Mr. Zukerman's letter is part of the public record of the Charter Commission meetings, and that he spoke at an earlier Charter Commission meeting with his recommendations.)

Mr. Neville asked if there was any plan to consider the writing style of the existing Charter with an eye towards avoiding duplication, obtuse or inscrutable paragraphing.

Regarding Item 2 on the agenda, which involved discussion of collective bargaining agreements coming to town meeting after the 14-day requirement, Mr. Neville strongly recommended that the 14-day rule be followed and that any changes to the articles be made on the town meeting floor.

Considering the discussion of Item C, Mr. Neville encouraged the Commissioners to change the way the Finance Committee is appointed. Here again, Mr. Neville believes that there should be some credentialing required for citizens volunteering to undertake the huge commitment of time as well as a minimum standard of financial competency to effectively serve on this committee.

Mr. Neville closed his remarks asking if the Commissioners knew why the word "appoint" was used in the Charter wherever the word "hire" would normally be

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used. For instance, from the Charter, we read: the Selectboard appoints the Town Manager, and the Town Manger appoints department heads, and Mr. Neville asked whether “appoint” is the right word, when clearly there is a hire / fire relationship intended.

What is the difference between **appoint** and **hire**?

Appoint

Definition:

- (v. t.) To fix with power or firmness; to establish; to mark out.
- (v. t.) To fix by a decree, order, command, resolve, decision, or mutual agreement; to constitute; to ordain; to prescribe; to fix the time and place of.
- (v. t.) To assign, designate, or set apart by authority.
- (v. t.) To furnish in all points; to provide with everything necessary by way of equipment; to equip; to fit out.
- (v. t.) To point at by way, or for the purpose, of censure or commendation; to arraign.
- (v. t.) To direct, designate, or limit; to make or direct a new disposition of, by virtue of a power contained in a conveyance; -- said of an estate already conveyed.
- (v. i.) To ordain; to determine; to arrange.

Hire

Definition:

- (pron.) See Here, pron.
- (n.) The price, reward, or compensation paid, or contracted to be paid, for the temporary use of a thing or a place, for personal service, or for labor; wages; rent; pay.
- (n.) A bailment by which the use of a thing, or the services and labor of a person, are contracted for at a certain price or reward.
- (n.) To procure (any chattel or estate) from another person, for temporary use, for a compensation or equivalent; to purchase the use or enjoyment of for a limited time; as, to hire a farm for a year; to hire money.
- (n.) To engage or purchase the service, labor, or interest of (anyone) for a specific purpose, by payment of wages; as, to hire a servant, an agent, or an advocate.

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- (n.) To grant the temporary use of, for compensation; to engage to give the service of, for a price; to let; to lease; -- now usually with out, and often reflexively; as, he has hired out his horse, or his time.