

TOWN OF GROTON
CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
October 17, 2017
TOWN HALL ANNEX – COMMUNITY ROOM 3

Chair Pro Tem Aument called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

I. ROLL CALL:

Members Present: Chair Pro Tem Scott Aument, Commissioners Kathy Chase, Robert Frink, Patrice Granatosky, Rosanne Kotowski, and Jennifer White.

Members Absent: Chair Hauber, Commissioners Jane Dauphinais, Brandon Marley, Daniel Mello, Darcy Peruzzotti

Commissioner Mello arrived at 5:31 PM

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

a. Commissioner Chase made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Frink, to approve the Minutes of the August 14, 2017 meeting.

Vote: PASSES 6-0-1 (White)

b. Commissioner Chase made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Kotowski, to approve the Minutes of the August 21, 2017 meeting.

Vote: PASSES 6-0-1 (White)

III. COMMUNICATIONS:

A. Chairperson: None

B. Secretary Aument noted that there was correspondence from Charles Stevens and Peggy Adams.

C. Members:

Commissioner Frink stated that he communicated via e-mail with a senior staff member from the Town of Manchester regarding budget workshops. He noted that he met with Cindy Landry and Robin Moulding of the Finance Department; he received feedback on the timeline and the wording of Chapter IX. He noted that Commissioner Dauphinais called-in to the meeting at the Finance Department.

Commissioner Granatosky stated that she has an issue with one member of the Commission meeting with Town staff without anyone else at the meeting or privy to the conversation. She noted that she appreciates Commissioner Frink putting forth items to the Commission, but she questioned if they can be interpreted as opinion from Town staff unless the staff authored it and proposed it.

Commissioner Kotowski stated that when she was on the RTM, she spent time with Town staff learning how the budget process works.

Commissioner Mello raised a Point of Order. He noted that this part of the meeting is reserved for communication.

Town Clerk Moukawsher noted that the Commissioners received comments on the proposed changes to the Charter from the Town Attorney.

- IV. New Business:
 - a. Town Council Comments on Draft Report

Chair Pro Tem Aument suggested recessing the meeting to attend the Town Council meeting.

Commissioner Mello stated that there is no need to attend the Town Council meeting; he does not know what will be gained by attending the meeting because the Commission has a good sense of what the Council wants. He stated that he has a problem with some members of the Town Council stating that they do not agree with any of the Commission's recommendations because the Council can adopt the recommendations of the Charter Revision Commission or the Council can let it go.

Town Clerk Moukawsher clarified the timeline and the purpose of tonight's Town Council meeting. She noted that the Town Council is following procedure. In response to Commissioner White, she stated that she was not aware that the Town Council invited the Commission to this Council meeting.

Commissioner Frink clarified that the Town Council will be voting on the comments on the Draft Report which starts the 30-day deadline.

Commissioner Granatosky stated that the Commission cannot do anything until the Town Council officially acts on the Draft Report and gives the Commission feedback on it.

Commissioner Frink noted that there are comments to review from the Town Attorneys.

Commissioner Kotowski questioned how the comments from the Town Attorney would be incorporated into the Charter.

In response to Commissioner Kotowski, Commissioner Frink stated that the Commission could propose revised language.

Commissioner Mello suggested setting the calendar for future Commission meetings.

In response to Commissioners Aument and Mello, Commissioner Frink stated that the work should be completed within ten to fourteen days before the end of the thirty-day deadline so that there is additional time to send the Commission's Final Draft report to the Attorney.

Commissioner Mello suggested dividing the Charter so that the Commission utilizes the remaining meeting dates effectively.

Commissioner Granatosky noted that the Commission does not know what the Town Council will send to the Charter Revision Commission.

The Commissioners discussed meeting on October 23, 2017 and October 30, 2017 at 6:30 p.m. Commissioner Mello suggested limiting each meeting to two hours. Chair Pro Tem Aument noted that the Commission may need to meet twice a week.

The Commission discussed recessing the meeting.

Chair Pro Tem Aument recessed the meeting at 6:00 p.m.

Chair Pro Tem Aument reconvened the meeting at 7:46 p.m. He suggested having another Commission meeting this week.

Commissioner Frink suggested having the Commissioners identify large issues that they do not agree with the Town Council on.

In response to Commissioner Granatosky, Commissioners noted that they wanted to change a few pieces of the Draft Report.

Commission Granatosky stated that she is in favor of not changing the Draft Report. She stated that the Commission could address each Town Council recommendation and then move on.

The Commissioners discussed discussing and compromising on some of the Town Council's recommendations before sending the Final Report to the attorneys. They discussed the ways in which the Final Draft Report could be created.

Commissioner Mello suggested having the Commission verify any language changed by the attorneys.

The Commissioners agreed that they will meet on Monday, October 23, 2017 at 6:30 p.m.

Commissioner Chase clarified that 63% is the attendance rate of the RTM. She noted that 15% of the Town is more than 63% of the RTM.

Commissioner Mello stated that his criticism of the RTM was to streamline the budget process, not the attendance of members. He noted that the list of items to review from the Town Council referenced looking at the RTM.

Commissioner Chase noted that she was looking at attendance statistics; she did not disparage the RTM. She noted that the original list of items to review from the Town Council included the RTM; she does not understand the criticism of the Commission's recommendation to eliminate it.

V. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made by Commission Mello, seconded by Commissioner Frink. Chair Pro Tem Aument adjourned the meeting at 7:57 p.m.

Attest:

Scott Aument, Secretary