

**MINUTES  
TOWN OF GROTON  
CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION  
DECEMBER 10, 2007  
TOWN HALL ANNEX – COMMUNITY ROOM 2**

1. Members Present: Shirley Dunbar-Rose, Stan Dziurzynski, Richard Moravsik, Raymond Munn, Frank "Mick" O'Beirne, Ed Stebbins and John Wirzbicki.  
Members Absent: Robert Frink and Nancy Moffat  
Also Present: Town Clerk Barbara Tarbox and Deputy Town Clerk Janet Downs

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

2. A motion was made by Stebbins, seconded by Wirzbicki to approve the minutes of **October 22, 2007**.  
It was noted that the names of Shirley Dunbar-Rose and Raymond Munn are missing from roll call. Both were present at the meeting.  
The minutes were approved as corrected by a vote of six in favor, one abstention. (Abstaining: Dziurzynski).

3. COMMUNICATIONS

a. Chairman

Chairman O'Beirne and all members received a letter from Richard Cady requesting that taxpayers have the opportunity to vote on the budget; he would also like the Town to adopt a "strong mayor" form of government. Mr. Cady's suggestions will be discussed at a later date.

The Chairman also received a proposal that would call for the election of the Town Manager and other administrative positions, including the Planning Director.

The members discussed the desirability of changing to a "strong mayor" form of government. The Chairman called for a vote on staying with the Manager/Council arrangement and ignoring the "strong mayor." The vote was six in favor, one opposed (Opposed: Dziurzynski).

b. Secretary

Secretary Dunbar-Rose had a request from RTM Member Patrice Granatosky to examine under what circumstances the RTM may have no right to vote on issues that do not include Town money. The Connector Road project from several years ago was mentioned.

The Town Clerk noted that two Attorney opinions have upheld the decision that the RTM has no right to vote on issues not directly involving town taxpayer money. She will find the opinions for the commissioners.

Chairman O'Beirne added that he would like to see if this issue can be addressed.

c. Members: No report.

4. CITIZEN COMMENTS

None.

5. OLD BUSINESS

Members continued their review of the **ORDINANCE** section as restructured by **Chairman O'Beirne**.

**Clerk's Note: All changes made by consensus or vote will be attached to these minutes. Please see "Compilation."**

- a. Sec. \_ Ordinances (*based on Ch. O'Beirne's draft*) - No changes.

- b. Sec. \_\_1 *Bonding Ordinances* - No changes.
- c. Sec. \_\_1.1 *Public Hearing* - No changes.
- d. Sec. \_\_1.2 *Adoption of a Bonding Ordinance* - No changes.
- e. Sec. \_\_1.3 *Effective Date* - No changes.
- f. Sec. \_\_1.4 *Publication of Adoption* - No changes.
- g. Sec. \_\_2 *Legislative Ordinances* - No changes.
- h. Sec. \_\_2.1 *Public Hearing* - No changes.
- i. Sec. \_\_2.2 *Adoption of a Legislative Ordinance* - No changes.
- j. Sec. \_\_2.3 *Referendum of Legislative Ordinance* - No changes.
- k. Sec. \_\_2.4 *Effective Date* - No changes.
- l. Sec. \_\_2.5 *Publication of Adoption* - No changes.
- m. Sec. \_\_3 *Emergency Ordinances* - No changes.
- n. Sec. \_\_3.1 *Effective Date* - No changes.
- o. Sec. \_\_3.2 *Publication of Adoption* - No changes.

## 6. NEW BUSINESS

Members reviewed **RTM** draft section as proposed by Secretary **Dunbar-Rose**.

- a. Sec. 3.1.1 *General*  
 Members discussed the desirability of deleting the phrase in the draft, "who shall serve without compensation."  
 Vote to delete was passed with five in favor, two opposed (Opposed: Moravsik, Stebbins).
- b. Sec. 3.1.2 *Powers*  
 There was consensus to add "or emergency" between "legislative" and "ordinance" in the last sentence and to add the sentence, "The RTM shall have power of initiative as specified in Section \_\_." at the end of the section.  
 The figure "10,000" should be replaced with the word "ten" in items b. and d. so that the phrase reads, "ten thousand dollars."
- c. Sec. 3.1.3 *Relationship with Municipal or Administrative Employees*  
 "Board of Education" should be changed to "BOE" for consistency. This section has been added.
- d. Sec. 3.2 *Representation; reapportionment*  
 Title should be changed to "Election; Representation; Reapportionment."
- e. Sec. 3.2.1 *Representation*  
 "Representation" in the first sentence should be changed to "Election of RTM members."  
 In line three, "Representation" should be changed to "Number of members."

f. Sec. 3.3 *Minority Representation*

This section should be re-numbered as Sec. 3.2.2 and re-titled "Minority representation; majority limitation."

The members discussed replacing the existing wording, "Each voter shall vote for two-thirds of the allotted number" with "Each voter may vote for that number of candidates in each district sufficient to complete the number of RTM members to which a district may be entitled."

Vote on the change was defeated three in favor, four opposed (In favor: Dunbar-Rose, Dziurzynski, O'Beirne).

g. Sec. 3.5 *Composition and procedure*

There was consensus to remove the sentence in the draft, "Upon written request...shall be taken by roll call."

h. Sec. 3.6 *Meetings*

In the first sentence, the phrase, "dispensed with upon direction of the moderator" should be replaced with "canceled by the moderator."

i. Sec. 3.7 *Power of initiative*

In the second sentence, the "not" should be removed, so that the sentence reads, "...shall be subject to a referendum...."

At the end of the second sentence, "in accordance with Sec. \_\_.2.3" should be added.

In the last sentence, the word "election" should be replaced with the word "referendum."

j. Sec. 3.8 *Power of veto*

Insert the phrase "legislative or emergency" before the first occurrence of "ordinance."

The Town Clerk will solicit the opinion of the Town Attorney regarding the inclusion of the words "or resolution" in the first sentence of this section.

The Chairman announced that at the next meeting, the commission will review **BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS, BOARD OF EDUCATION, and TOWN CLERK**. In addition, they will discuss Mr. Munn's draft section on **OFFICERS AND ELECTIONS**. He would also like to look at the "framework" of the Charter, i.e. how it will fit together.

7. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:12 p.m.

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Shirley Dunbar-Rose  
Secretary

Approved January 14, 2008