

**MINUTES – DRAFT  
TOWN OF GROTON  
CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION  
April 28, 2008  
TOWN HALL ANNEX – COMMUNITY ROOM 2**

1. Members Present: Frank "Mick" O'Beirne, Shirley Dunbar-Rose, Richard Moravsik,  
Raymond Munn, and Ed Stebbins  
Members Absent: Stan Dziurzynski, Robert Frink, Nancy Moffat, and John Wirzbicki  
Also Present: Office Assistant Lori Watrous

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 p.m.

2. A motion was made by Chairman O'Beirne, seconded by Commissioner Munn to approve the minutes of April 14, 2008. The minutes were unanimously approved.
3. COMMUNICATIONS
- a. Chairman: None
  - b. Secretary: None
  - c. Members: None
4. CITIZEN COMMENTS  
None
5. OLD BUSINESS

Members continued discussion of the **REFERENDUM** section as restructured by Chairman O'Beirne.

- a. Commissioners were asked whether a question regarding the Charter should be on the ballot in November. In the event of deciding on a referendum, it would be formatted as multiple questions (i.e., question one would be whether to approve the Charter or not, and question two, concerning a referendum, would be contingent upon the approval of question one). The Town Council would determine the wording of these questions. In addition, suggested conditions for a referendum need to be outlined.

It was also discussed that the original purpose of the RTM was to take the place of the old town meeting because the size of the town got too large and unwieldy. Since there is an RTM in place, is there really a need for an additional town meeting vote?

Discussion on the referendum will continue at the May 12 meeting, at which time a vote will be taken.

Members discussed a Memo from the Town Attorney dated April 14.

- a. Library Board

After having met with the Library Director and the Chairman of the Library Board on March 10, it is believed that they both would find it preferable if the Library Board functioned in an advisory capacity rather than a fiduciary one.

The question was posed whether to include the Library Board in the Charter or delete specific verbiage as with other departments. Chairman O'Beirne pointed out that the Town Guidebook to Boards and Commissions gives details on each Board and

Commission including applicable legislative statutes, he further stated that the Guidebook can be updated and tailored more readily than the Charter.

A vote will be deferred until May 12.

- b. *Parks and Recreation Commission* – The attorney's answer that the Parks and Recreation Commission does not have to appear in the Charter to be required was acknowledged, but no discussion ensued on this item.

A recess was taken from 7:48 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

## 6. NEW BUSINESS

Members began discussion of the **APPOINTIVE OFFICERS—BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS** section as restructured by Commissioner Wirzbicki.

- a. Sec.   .1 – *Town attorney* – A consensus was made to keep the wording of the **1987 version of this section** with the following exceptions:
  - 1. In the first sentence of the first paragraph change the words “sixty (60) days” to “one-hundred twenty (120) days”.
  - 2. In the first sentence of the first paragraph delete the words “until the next regular town election or”.
  - 3. Change the first sentence of the third paragraph to read “The town attorney shall have the authority to prepare or approve the form of all legal documents, and render opinions upon the legality of ordinances, contracts and any other instruments to which the town is a party or in which it has a legal interest.”

Chairman O'Beirne made a motion to approve the above changes and modifications. The vote passed unanimously.

Chairman O'Beirne will restructure the **MERIT SYSTEM** section.

Commissioner Munn will restructure the **TRANSITION AND MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS** section.

At the next meeting, the commission will continue with the **REFERENDUM** section, **DEPARTMENTS** (*Sec.   .3 (new) Library services*) section, and then move on to the **MERIT SYSTEM** section, and the **TRANSITION AND MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS** section. The commission will also discuss emails distributed at the April 28 meeting.

## 7. ADJOURNMENT

By consensus the meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

---

Shirley Dunbar-Rose  
Secretary  
Approved May 12, 2008