

Charter Review Advisory Committee  
Charlestown Town Hall, Council Chambers  
4540 S County Trail, Charlestown, RI 02813  
July 23, 2018

Minutes

1. Call to order 7pm by Chairman Larry Dunn
2. Roll call: Larry Dunn, Marge Frank and Jan Knost present. Peter Ruggiero solicitor. In addition the following People were present: Deb Carney, Cheryl Dowdell, Frank Glista, Virginia Lee, and Tara Welinsky .
3. A motion was made and seconded to accept the draft minutes of the June 25 2018 meeting. Upon discussion Chairman Dunn made a motion to modify 4 a 2 as they read, the town administrator did not solicit input from the town employees. What he remembers saying was that a message was left for the Administrator to solicit employees and he did not hear back from the Administrator. Motion to amend the minutes. Motion to accept the minutes as Amended.
4. Items tabled seeking input from solicitor Peter Ruggiero
  - a. Item 4e: Amend Article XXVI-C86 of the town charter proposed warrant items to be consistent with the restriction placed on the voter-initiated referendums. Specifically that any town council proposed warrant items be voted upon at regularly scheduled general elections. However in the case of an emergency the Town Council will be allowed to present warrant items at the financial referendum. Discussion followed trying to define an emergency. Motion to incorporate the recommendation into the Charter. The recommendation would strike voter- initiated wording. Motion carried.
  - b. Item 4f Town Council to have staggered terms. After discussion Motion made : Two top vote getters have a 4 year term and other 3 get 2 year terms. At the next election 3 would be elected to 4 year terms. Motion carried.
  - c. Item 4 d Method of filling vacancies on the town council with less than a year until the next election. A motion was passed to require the Town Council to announce the vacancy and solicit applications from interested persons. The following month a public hearing will be held and each of the applicants will be interviewed in public by the town councilors and then the applicant would be chosen by the town council the same night.

Peter Ruggiero will put the three motions into proper language and e-mail them to each member of the charter review advisory committee. Each one will respond to Peter. A public hearing will possibly be held August 20 in the Council Chamber.

Meeting adjourned 8 pm

Respectively submitted, Marjorie Frank

**APPROVED October 22, 2018**