

NEWTON CHARTER COMMISSION  
Wednesday, February 24, 2016  
7:00 p.m. – City Hall – Room 211  
MEETING MINUTES

Josh Krintzman called the meeting to order at 7:00pm. Rhanna Kidwell, Bryan Barash, Jane Frantz, Howard Haywood, Anne Lerner, Karen Manning, Chris Steele, Jose Morgan were present. Also in attendance were consultants from the Collins Center.

**1. Approval of minutes from February 10<sup>th</sup>**

Document: Draft minutes from Feb. 10.

Tabled approval of minutes until March 10<sup>th</sup> meeting so that all members of commission can properly view minutes.

**2. Public Comments**

- Cheryl Salvucci, 12 Merton St., suggested that the charter should include a minimum age for a candidate for the mayoral position. She noted several communities have elected mayors who are in their early 20's and she thinks this is too young.
- Sallee Lipshutz, 24 Radcliff Rd., asked how we transmit minutes before the meeting and if the commissioners exchanged emails related to the minutes before the meeting (answer: no). She also noted that the number of required signatures for an Area Council candidate was not included in Article 8.
- Greg Smith, 87 Norwood Ave., asked that the commission consider including a statement guaranteeing the right to free speech. He said that when parents make an agreement with the city related to services for their children in the school system, that they are required to sign a gag order. He does not agree with this and thinks parents should have the right to speak about their agreement with the city.
- Lisle Baker, 137 Suffolk Rd., asked the commission not "constitutionalize" the Land Use Committee. He believes that projects built as a result of the present special permitting process have resulted in better projects.

**3. Article 11 Review/Comment**

Documents: Article 11 Redraft Version 1

Josh will add comments to include the removing of certain sections being moved to other Articles within the Charter.

The Commission agrees to remove last sentence of Section 11-13, as it appeared in the draft circulated at the meeting.

The Commission will revisit the public comment section.

**4. Article 3 Issues discussion.**

Documents: Article 3 Cover Letter

Article 3 Annotated

Article 3 Executive (Table)

Josh and Chris led the discussion of Article 3. The commission reviewed the current Article 3 and made notes on what issues shall be up for discussion in a later meeting.

#### **5. Finances of the Commission**

The Commission received a notice that the Finance Committee may take up the docket item regarding funding for the Charter Commission on March 14, 2016. If taken up on March 14<sup>th</sup> the City Council will be able to vote on it March 22, 2016.

#### **6. February 29<sup>th</sup> Hearing**

The Charter Commission has heard back from a few mayors and representatives from other cities, former Mayor David Cohen, and members of the community who have been candidates for the office of mayor who plan to attend the public meeting.

#### **7. Article 4 Discussion**

Jane led a discussion of the current process of Article 4. Jane and Karen set up a meeting with the current School Committee on March 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>. They will also contact former members of the School Committee that still live in the City.

#### **8. Communications**

Josh raised the point of how the commission will communicate the changes of what the changes being made to the charter. The commission could create a tracker of the changes being made to the articles that would be available to all.

Meeting adjourn at 8:30