Charter Review Commission Meeting Minutes – August 14, 2018

Chair Farber called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

Roll Call

Members present were: Karen Farber, Dave Goldberg, Ned Kitchel, Bill Lunt, Dave McConnell, Mary Nelson, Richard Olson, Rachel Reed. Staff present were: Amy Lamontagne, Nathan Poore, Amy Tchao.

Members absent were: Sean Mahoney

Item 1 – Approve minutes of August 7 meeting

Bill motioned to accept and Richard seconded. All in favor.

Item 2 – Public Comment (3 minutes per person)

No public comment.

Item 3 – Review Charter Article IV – Article V, with additional sections (time permitting)

Chair Farber introduced guests Geoff Bruno and Danielle Tracy. Representing the school, they were present to participate in the review of Article IV – Department of Education.

Sec. 401 - It was suggested that the same language suggested for Sec 201, regarding date of town councilors assuming office, should be put in place for School Board members. Language still needed regarding clarification of terms. When does a term start – on a specific date after the election, the date sworn in, etc.?

Sec. 402 - Qualifications - Suggested that a Member of the School Board shall not hold any paid office or position of employment with the School Department, or the Library, or any other Town Department. (and the same should be the case for the Qualifications for Town Council Members). Amy T. will research to ensure that this is acceptable by law. It was thought that a list presented of all situations that would result in a vacancy (so that the criteria for a vacancy would be clearer and to the point) could be helpful, but it was determined that there was nothing intrinsically wrong with the language, so that it would be left in place at this time.

Sec. 403 - Vacancy - It is suggested that this should read the same as Sec. 211 does for Town Council, thereby changing the time period to 60 days and having the new School Board Member elected by the town residents.

Sec. 404 - Organization; qualifications; quorum. It was suggested that the language that has been suggested for the Town Council should be mirrored here (Town Clerk or designee, etc.).

Sec. 405 - It is suggested that the 45 days prior goes to 75 days.

Sec. 406 - No recommendations.

Sec. 501 - No recommendations.

Sec. 502 - It is suggested that the 35 days prior goes to 60 days.

Sec. 503 - No recommendations.

Sec. 504 - No recommendations.

Sec. 505 - No recommendations.

Sec. 506 - It is suggested that the reference to 902 be corrected to 903.

Sec. 507 - No recommendations.

Sec. 508 - It is suggested that we remove the phrase "by resolution."

Sec. 509 - No recommendations.

Sec. 510 - No recommendations.

Item 4 – Other Business

Nathan suggested additional planning before the end of the meeting. Next week, the group should be prepared to finish the charter review and meet past 8:00 pm. A placeholder was also put on August 28 if another meeting is needed between August 21 and September 11. Amy L. will send an availability inquiry to the group. Based on current review, staff will create a redline version to share with the group. This document might not be available until Monday, August 20.

Item 5 – Adjourn

Chair Farber adjourned the meeting at 8:11 pm.