

**Charter Review Committee -Remote Meeting
8/24/2022**

A recording of this meeting is also available on the Pepperell Community Media, Inc. website at:
<HTTPS://WWW.PEPPERELLCHANNEL.ORG> Follow the link path:
Video on Demand>Charter Review Committee>August 24, 2022

1. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 pm. The Pledge was said.
Attendance Charter Review Committee members attended via remote connection.
Matt Jussame, Chair; Caroline Ahdab, Vice Chair; John Ladik; Rob Rand; Harvey Serreze;
and Marilyn Tremblay
Absent: Ramona Reed, Clerk

2. Acceptance of Minutes

There were no minutes presented for approval.

3. Public Comments

The Chair recognized one public attendee, Tereze Stokes. She commented that she was just there to listen. The committee thanked her for her presence.

4. Public Feedback

None.

5. Discuss Steps for Completing the Charter

~~We have not heard back from the Civic Engagement Night tentatively scheduled for September 22, 2022. Hopefully, we will have the 45 days before Town Meeting that we need to wrap things up. The consensus was that we would not have the time we need to make any major changes that might have to go back to Town Counsel. We have a September 30, 2022 date for deadline for feedback from the public.

~~Matt proceeded to do the presentation. It took 22 minutes and it was very good. Very understandable.

~~John presented the draft warrant article language. As follows:

***Pepperell Charter Review Committee
Charter Warrant***

To see if the Town will vote to accept the Revised Pepperell Home Rule Charter in order to reaffirm our individual sovereignty with respect to the conduct of our local government and to take the fullest advantages inherent in the Home Rule Amendments of the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. The proposed revisions focus on enhancing transparency, clarifying (including grammatical edits throughout), strengthening, and adding guardrails where

needed based on accepted standards and requirements. The following sections were addressed:

- *Ethical standards*
- *Publication of notices*
- *By-Laws*
- *Select Board*
- *Town Administrator*
- *Committees*
- *Budget Procedures*

~~Marilyn presented the proposed draft ballot language as follows:

Shall the Town approve the revised Pepperell Home Rule Charter as recommended by the Charter Review Committee.

The proposed revisions focus on enhancing transparency, clarifying (including grammatical edits throughout), strengthening, and adding guardrails where needed based on accepted standards and requirements. The following sections were addressed:

- *Ethics Standards*
- *Publication of Notices*
- *By-Laws*
- *Select Board*
- *Town Administrator*
- *Committees*
- *Budget Procedures*

The language for both the warrant and the ballot need another review and a unanimous committee consensus before submitting.

~~Suggestions were made to have presentations at the Senior Center, the Library and through the Pepperell Business Association. Marilyn, John and Rob will do the Senior Center, Matt will connect with Ramona for the Library and Marilyn will contact the PBA.

6. Other Matters

None

7. Adjournment

A motion was made by Marilyn, seconded by Harvey to adjourn.
Yeas : 6. Nays: 0. Motion was carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:38 pm.

No future meeting date was set at this time.

