**TOWN OF HARWICH**

**By-Laws/Charter Review Committee**

**MEETING MINUTES**

**Town Hall Library**

**Tuesday, March 19, 2019 @ 6:30 pm**

In attendance: Committee Members Sandra Hall (Chairman), Anita Doucette, Tina Games, Deborah Sementa, Carol Thayer.

**1.Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order @ 6:30 pm.

**2. Approval of Minutes**

Minutes from the February 19, 2019 meeting were tabled until next scheduled meeting.

**3. Old Business**

1. **Update on Chairman’s visit with Board of Selectmen on March 4 regarding Committee’s proposed Charter amendments** – Chairman Sandy Hall informed the Bylaw/Charter Committee that the BOS was fine with the “ex officio” amendments; however, the CPC component remains outstanding.

**4. New Business**

1. **Discussion of Citizens’ Petition articles for Charter and By-law Changes in Draft 2019 Annual Town Meeting Warrant. Possible votes.** – The following articles are scheduled to be on the Warrant; however, none have been referred to the Bylaw/Charter Review Committee:
2. *Amend the Code of the Town of Harwich to prohibit procurement of and dispensing of beverages in plastic containers of any size.*
3. *General By-Law Amendment to ban the use of Single-Use Plastic Straws*
4. *Selectmen’s Public Record of Votes*
5. *Amend the Code of the Town of Harwich Charter – Update the Name “Selectmen” to “Select Board”*
6. *Rescind Article 57 of the 2016 Annual Town Meeting – Pet Burial Ground.*

Chairman Hall suggested each Committee member review a section of each of these recommendations and cross reference between the Bylaw and Charter.

There was discussion regarding Article 56 (Update the Name “Selectmen” to Select Board”) particularly the magnitude of changes the Bylaw/Charter Review Committee would face updating the Bylaws and Charter if the article passes at Town Meeting. Based on historical and financial implications, a motion was made by Carol Thayer and seconded by Anita Doucette that Article 56 be indefinitely postponed. A vote was taken and passed 4 to 1. In favor: Anita Doucette, Sandy Hall, Deb Sementa, and Carol Thayer. Opposed: Tina Games

**5. Set next meeting date**

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 23 @ 6:30pm.

**6. Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at 7:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah A. Sementa

Recording Secretary