BY-LAW/CHARTER REVIEW COMMITTEE

Tuesday, September 13, 2022, 5 p.m.

Community Center Media Room

Harwich MA 02645

MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. In attendance were Sandra Hall, Chair; Linda Cebula; Anita Doucette; Deborah Sementa; and Carol Thayer. Guests in attendance: Water/Wastewater Superintendent Dan Pelletier.

1. PUBLIC COMMENT:

None

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The August 16, 2022, minutes were voted and approved. Abstained: Linda Cebula. Linda was welcomed as a new member of the Committee.
2. NEW BUSINESS
3. The Committee met with Superintendent Pelletier to discuss potential charter and/or by-law changes. Superintendent Pelletier would like to see amendments to Chapter 300 §16 to allow changes for types of ticketing for water restriction violations. The present process is time consuming particularly when the court is involved. He would like a Charter amendment that would allow the Water Commissioner to add fines to the water bill, thereby avoiding court proceedings. Presently, the process is time consuming and can take up to 21 days to be resolved.
4. There was general discussion on the August 22, 2022, meeting with the Board of Selectmen (BOS) on the topic of seeking $75,000 in funding for a comprehensive review of the Charter and Bylaws through an Article at the Fall Town meeting. It appeared that the BOS was in favor of this initiative. Chair Sandra Hall will invite Town Administrator Joe Powers to our next meeting to discuss hiring a consultant and timelines involved.
5. There was also discussion regarding the Charter, history, and procedures and anticipated issues going forward.
6. OLD BUSINESS
7. The Committee continued its discussion on findings in reviewing charter, town code and committee handbook. There is nothing new to report.
8. This Committee is scheduled to meet the second Tuesday of each month. Meetings are scheduled at 5:00pm for October 11, November 8, and December 13 for the remainder of the year.
9. ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah Sementa

Recording Secretary