BY-LAW/CHARTER REVIEW COMMITTEE

Tuesday, February 14, 2023, 5 p.m.

Town Hall Small Hearing 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; Anita Doucette; Deborah Sementa; and Carol Thayer. Absent: Linda Cebula.

1. PUBLIC COMMENT: None
2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The January 10 and January 17, 2023, minutes were voted and approved.
3. OLD BUSINESS
4. Discussion and voting for the following recommendations for charter revisions to be sent to the Board of Selectmen for potential inclusion in the May 2023 Town Meeting Warrant, including, but not limited to:
5. Restructuring timelines and deadlines for budget and/or other financial considerations
6. Clarifying §4-5-2 to specify new and/or expanded positions
7. Clarifying §4-4-1 and §4-4-2 regarding approval or denial by the Board of Selectmen of Town Administrator’s appointments
8. Clarifying §9-6-3 to replace the word “during” with “no later than”
9. Consideration of including a By-law or Charter amendment to allow the Water Commission/Water Commissioner to add fines to water bills
10. Modify §2-3-1 to state that Town Meeting will be held during the first full week of May.

Motion made (Deborah Sementa) and seconded (Anita Doucette) for the Chair to send a letter to the Board of Selectmen requesting these items be included in the May 2023 Town Meeting Warrant. Chair Sandra Hall will send a draft of the request to this committee for input and approval before sending to the Chair of the Selectmen.

1. NEW BUSINESS
2. Emily Mitchell, Town Clerk, will be invited to the next meeting to discuss the issue of appointment rather than the elected position of town clerk.
3. The $75,000 consultant fee as voted at the May 2022 Annual Town Meeting has been tabled until the committee hears from the Board of Selectmen.
4. ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 5:07 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for March 14, 2023 @ 5:00 p.m. in Town Hall’s Small Meeting Room.

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah Sementa

Recording Secretary