BY-LAW CHARTER REVIEW COMMITTEE MINUTES

October 10, 2023

Committee members present: Linda Cebula, Noreen Donahue, Anita Doucette, Sandy Hall, Deborah Sementa.

1. Call to Order - Meeting called to order by Chair Cebula at 5:00. This meeting is being recorded.
2. No public comments noted.
3. Approval of minutes for September 8, 2023. Motion to approve by Donahue, seconded by Hall.

Accepted 5-0. It was noted that a correction stating approval for September 8, 2023 was

5-0, not 4-0.

1. New Business

Deborah Sementa led the discussion on proposed Charter changes to Chapter 2: TOWN MEETING. Copies of the most recent Chapter 2 were distributed for the discussion and each article was discussed. There was lengthy discussion surrounding Section 8. *Articles Having Fiscal Implications.*

Several recommended revisions were noted. Linda Cebula had a suggestion that the Bylaws need revision (housekeeping issue), particularly Chapter 271 1.6 reflecting “…individual votes…” rather than “…total votes…” and Chapter 271.3-Admittance to Town Meeting Floor – proposed bylaw change is to remove “without majority consent thereof” replace with “at the discretion of the town moderator.”

5. Old Business

Sandy Hall presented recommended language revisions to Chapter 1. *Town Incorporation,*

*Form of Government, and Powers*, in particular adding Section 1-3-2 addressing the pecking

order of how the town governs itself.

Once the Committee has reviewed the entire Bylaws and Charter, proposed language revisions

will be presented to the Select Board for their review.

Noreen Donahue distributed copies of the recently conducted Open Meeting Training Session.

Motion to adjourn by Doucette, second by Donahue. Meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

Next meeting scheduled is for Tuesday, November 14, 2023 @ 5:00 p.m.

Deborah Sementa

Recording Secretary

According to the real-time data provided, there is no specific information regarding any prohibition of having tw town meetings per year in Massachusetts General Law. However, MGL-Part I Title VII, Chapter 39, Section 9 sttes that a town may designate the hour at which the annual town meeting shall be called. Additionally, MGL-Part I, Title VII, Chapter 39, Section 15 allows towns to pass by-laws for the regulation of proceedings at town meetings. It is recommended to refer to the specific sections and consult legal experts or official sources for a comprehensive understanding of town meeting regulations in Massachusetts.