



Town of Sturbridge

Sturbridge Charter Review Committee

NOTES

December 21, 2021

4:00 p.m.

**Sturbridge Town Hall,
308 Main Street, Sturbridge, MA 01566**

- Call to order
- Introduction of members – Members Present: William Haggerty, Kirstie Pecci, Priscilla Gimás (on Zoom), Laurence Morrison, and Steve Sexton. Town Manager, Jeff Bridges also present
- Selection of Chair and Vice Chair – William Haggerty elected unanimously as Chair (he abstained). Kirstie Pecci elected unanimously as Vice Chair and Secretary (she abstained).
- Review of the charge of the Committee
 - Town of Sturbridge Charter requires review every five years. Charter Review Committee (CRC) makes recommendation to Finance Committee and Board of Selectmen, needs approval at Town Meeting, then residents vote to accept or reject changes at annual election.
 - Town mtg in June
 - Working backwards, need final Charter by March 15th so it can be included in the Town Warrant
 - Laurence Morrison raised that given that LM is on Finance Committee and CRC, he raised that standard procedure is member of both votes as member of CRC or Finance Committee (once), not as part of both bodies (twice). LM will adhere to this practice.
- Discuss Work Plan
 - Discussion of how to publicize Charter Review and to solicit input from community. Boxes at Library, Town Hall, and announcement on Cable Channel. Also, will confer with Jeremy Jalbert re: putting announcement and possibly survey re: Charter on Town's website.
 - Charter has recently been codified, and language was revised to be gender neutral.

- CRC members should review existing Charter and be ready to raise concerns.
 - Need to schedule times to invite Town boards, committees, employees, and other officials to raise concerns and recommendations for revising Charter.
 - Town Manager's secretary, Michelle Garmand, will publish notice of meetings.
 - Town Manager, Jeff Bridges, said that as this was his last meeting, he wanted to make the CRC aware of potential change to Charter that has been raised – that Town Managers not have appointment power over attorneys and other expert consultants, that Board of Selectmen do. Will add this change to list to discuss.
- Other Business
 - KLP agreed to take notes for the CRC. Will decide if they should be a google document or word document.
 - Discussed meetings at 4 on Tuesdays, every other week as possibility. Decided that next meeting would be Jan. 4, 2022 at four at Town Hall.
- Adjourn
 - Voted unanimously to adjourn.