

MINUTES
PUBLIC HEARING
CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION
March 14, 2018

PRESENT: Chairman Dennis Donovan, Commissioners: Michael Knudsen, Art Kuever, Michael Hornyak, Lise Gazzillo, Mary Jo Phelps, Eric Bergman

Guests: John Olsen, Bruce and Barbara Farmer

The public hearing was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

D. Donovan invited the guests

- introduced the commission members
- explained the rules for the public hearing
- explained this commission is starting fresh using the current Charter (dated December 6, 2012)

J. Olsen, Pratt Road:

- Presented information regarding a Representative Town Meeting form of government
 - This can be either partisan or non-partisan
 - Representatives are elected
 - The RTM can discuss, argue and debate issues
- Consider a Town Manager
 - Is a challenge to find qualified people for First Selectman/Board of Selectmen
 - Credentials should be set for a Town Manager
 - A strong Board of Selectmen (Town Council) will be needed to hold the Town Manager's feet to the fire
- Eliminate the Board of Finance
 - This would require phasing it out with meaningful steps
- Have the Board of Selectmen (Town Council) expanded to take on some of the Board of Finance roles
- The Charter Revision Commission should be bold and radical
 - Do what you think is right with the consensus of the board
 - Work to get the vote out

Bruce Farmer, Liberty Village:

- The third question which included numerous changes to the Charter was voted down
 - These important changes should be marketed to the voters

Barbara Farmer, Liberty Village:

- The Charter has not had any major changes in many years

The Charter Revision Commission asked that the Harbor News provide more coverage and details on the recommended Charter changes.

The public hearing was closed at 7:27 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Wendy McDermott,
Clerk