

**Town of Uxbridge
Charter Review Committee
August 16, 2021**

The twenty-seventh meeting of the Uxbridge Charter Review Committee, held at the Uxbridge Police Station, 275 Douglas Street, Uxbridge, Massachusetts, was called to order by Chair, Patrick Stephan at 6:51 PM, Monday, August 16, 2021.

Present were Chair, Patrick Stephan, Clerk, Ray Talke, and committee members Rob Knapik and Michael Potaski. Joann Lindenmayer participated by telephone. Selectman John Wise was also present. Vice-Chair, Melissa Desmarais and committee members Barry Desruisseaux, Jeffrey Lourie, and Ron Parsons was absent from the meeting.

During the citizens' forum, Selectman Wise stated he was impressed with the charter review committee's preparedness at the August 9, 2021 meeting of the Board of Selectmen.

Subsequent to the last meeting, discussions were also held with Jenn Modica, a meeting was held with Moderator Ed Maharay, and an email from Susan Franz was received by the committee. Ms. Modica believes any revisions to the charter should be submitted to the voters at a referendum next May. Mr. Maharay reviewed options for submitting the committee's recommendations at town meeting. Ms. Franz suggested more explicitly documenting residency requirements for elected and appointed positions in the charter.

Mr. Stephan had a discussion with Benn Sherman, Director of Public Works. Mr. Sherman is in favor of creating a board of public works and noted that one existed before the first charter was approved.

Mr. Talke moved that the approval of the August 2, 2021 charter review committee meeting minutes be tabled, seconded by Mr. Potaski. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Talke moved for a reorganization of the officers of the charter review committee, seconded by Mr. Potaski. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Talke nominated Mr. Stephan to serve as chair, seconded by Mr. Knapik. Mr. Stephan was unanimously elected chair of the committee.

Mr. Potaski nominated Mr. Knapik to serve as vice-chair, seconded by Mr. Talke. Mr. Knapik was unanimously elected vice-chair.

Mr. Potaski nominated Mr. Talke to serve as clerk, seconded by Mr. Knapik. Mr. Talke was unanimously elected clerk.

Mr. Stephan reported that he will check availability of the Senior Center for a public presentation of the committee's recommendations. He will also contact the finance committee to offer a presentation of our recommendations to their members.

Mr. Potaski moved the following changes be made to Article 1 of the charter, seconded by Mr. Knapik:

Article 1, Section 5c: Remove "by emergency medical personnel or a public safety agency" from the end of definition of emergency.

Article 1, Section 5k: Add "and any other governing document in Uxbridge or the commonwealth" to the end of the definition.

Article 1, Section 5l: Add "and any other governing document in Uxbridge or the commonwealth" to the end of the definition.

Article 1, Section 5s: Remove "valid" from the definition of voters.

The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Knapik moved the following changes be made to Article 2 of the charter, seconded by Mr. Potaski:

Article 2, Section 3: Change the sentence, "The finance committee may report the action it recommends be taken on any or all of the articles contained in a town meeting warrant, in writing, together with a brief statement of the reasons for each such recommendation" to "The finance committee shall report the action it recommends be taken on any financial articles contained in a town meeting warrant and may report the action it recommends on other articles contained in a town meeting warrant. Such recommendation shall be provided in writing along with a brief statement of the reasons for each such recommendation."

Article 2, Section 7c: The following sentence shall be added: "In instances in which town hall is closed on the sixtieth day preceding the annual town meeting, petitions must be submitted by the last day town hall is open before the sixtieth day preceding the annual town meeting."

The motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Lindenmayer moved the following changes be made to Article 3 of the charter, seconded by Mr. Potaski:

Article 3, Section 1c: Remove the word "valid."

Article 3, Section 2e: The verbiage, "a board of registrars of voters with the necessary technical skills in the operation of any voter registry information services programs and hardware required to accomplish the task," shall be restored to the original text of, "a board of registrars of voters with the necessary technical skills in the operation of the Central Voter Registry/VRIS or any other program as required to accomplish the task."

Article 3, Section 6a: Board of Library Trustees reverted back to six members.

Article 3, Section 9b: The verbiage, "powers and duties in Uxbridge, to wit: road commissioners..." is changed to "powers and duties in Uxbridge, as required, including: road commissioners..."

The verbiage, "the collection and disposal of garbage and refuse," is now omitted.

The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Potaski moved the following change be made to Article 6 of the charter, seconded by Mr. Knapik:

Article 6, Section 11a: Financial audits are changed from biannually to annually.

The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Knapik moved the following changes be made to Article 7 of the charter, seconded by Mr. Potaski:

Article 7, Section 7a, "or longer, if specified by general laws" is added to the end of "Except in cases of emergency, special meetings of any multiple member body shall be held on the call of the respective chairperson or by one-third of the members thereof by suitably written notice delivered to the residence, place of business, or email address of each member at least forty-eight (48) hours in advance of the time set."

Article 7, Section 7b: "(or longer, if specified by general laws)" is added after the words "forty-eight (48) hours."

Article 7, Section 8: "unless otherwise specified in general laws or this charter" is added after "odd number of members."

Article 7, Section 10: Section 10 is added with the following text:

Section 10: Censure of Multiple Member Bodies

The members of all multiple member bodies shall comply with all pertinent requirements of Massachusetts General Laws (MGL), the Code of Massachusetts Regulations (CMR), the By-laws of the Town of Uxbridge, and this charter. Failure to meet these requirements may subject the multiple member body to a vote of censure at town meeting.

An article calling for the censure of a multiple member body shall be placed on the warrant of a regular or special town meeting if requested by not less than fifty (50) voters. Such article shall specify with which MGL, CMR, by-law, or charter provision the multiple member body was in violation.

The second paragraph of Article 3, Section 2b shall be stricken, as well as Article 3, Section 2c. All subsequent sections shall be renumbered appropriately.

Article 7, Section 11: Section 11 is added with the following text:

Section 11: Sunset Provision

Any multiple member body not explicitly required by general law, by-law, or this charter will exist for a term not exceeding three (3) years, unless reapproved by voters at town meeting every three (3) years. Any such committee or multiple member body will cease to exist after three (3) years if not reapproved at town meeting.

The similar verbiage is removed from Article 3, Section 2e. Subsequent sections are renumbered as appropriate.

The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/

Raymond A. Talke, Jr.
Clerk