



## Town of Reading Meeting Minutes

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### Board - Committee - Commission - Council:

#### Charter Review Committee

Date: 2023-11-14

Time: 7:00 PM

Building: Reading Town Hall

Location: Select Board Meeting Room

Address: 16 Lowell Street

Session: Open Session

Purpose: General Business

Version: Final

#### Attendees: **Members - Present:**

Chair Chris Haley, Vice Chair Phil Pacino, Jesse Arnold, Jonathan Barnes, Geoff Beckwith, Chuck Robinson

#### **Members - Not Present:**

Bill Brown, Alan Foulds, Andrew Grimes

#### **Others Present:**

Town Clerk Laura Gemme, Assistant Town Manager Matt Kraunelis

**Minutes Respectfully Submitted By:** Jacquelyn LaVerde

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### Topics of Discussion:

Chair Chris Haley called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

#### **Discussion on Content and Potential Changes to Charter Article 3 and Article 4:** Article 3

The Committee continued to update gender neutral pronouns, update "Board of Selectmen" to "Select Board", and correct various typos.

#### Section 3.5 Municipal Light Board of Commissioners

Phil Pacino explained that the Light Department is subject to state statute Chapter 164. Paragraphs four and five go beyond the authority of Chapter 164. The Committee debated whether to grant the RMLD Board of Commissioners the ability to appoint the Accounting Manager for checks and balances, and opted to ask Town Counsel to weigh-in with their recommendation. Mr. Haley will consult with Town Counsel.

#### Section 3.6 Moderator

Alan Foulds sent comments ahead of the meeting with his suggestion of the Town Moderator term remaining at one year. Other members agreed, as there is no recall mechanism for the Town Moderator.

#### Article 4

#### Section 4.1 Board of Assessors

Per Mr. Foulds's comments, "The elected members of the Board of Assessors serving at the time that this section first becomes effective may continue to serve in office until their elected terms expire, unless reappointed for an additional term or terms pursuant to this section." was stricken, as all members of the Board of Assessors are now appointed.

#### Section 4.4 Board of Health

Town Meeting voted to increase the number of members on the Board of Health, but it is still pending state approval. Mr. Haley will consult Town Counsel on how best to word the charter given the anticipated increase in the number of members.

Section 4.9 Housing Authority

The Committee discussed the membership of the Authority, which includes one state appointed member that must be a resident of the Town, and one member who must be a resident of the Authority. Mr. Haley will consult Town Counsel to clarify the wording in the charter.

Section 4.14 Other Boards and Committees

The Committee briefly discussed residency requirement comments from Town Counsel and agreed to leave the section in place, and add ex-officio, non-voting members, such as Town Manager or School Superintendent, to Boards and Committees as applicable.

Section 4.15 Associate Membership

Per Mr. Foulds's comments, "Associates members of boards or committees serving as of the effective date of this Section 4.15 shall be allowed to serve until the end of their term or until June 30, 2015, whichever comes first.", was stricken as it is no longer applicable.

Mr. Haley reviewed his items to address with Town Counsel, including all paragraphs in Municipal Light BOC Section 3.5, clarification on Board of Health Section 4.4, determining the membership of the Housing Authority in Section 4.8, and asking whether to add the Affordable Housing Trust Committee to the Charter or if it belongs in the bylaws.

**Approval of Minutes:**

Geoff Beckwith noted that the attendees list needs to be added to the final version.

**On a motion by Chuck Robinson, seconded by Jesse Arnold, the Charter Review Committee voted 6-0-0 to approve the meeting minutes of October 30, 2023 as amended.**

**Future Agenda Items:**

Laura Gemme stated that she will be unable to attend the next scheduled meeting on November 27<sup>th</sup>. The Committee discussed and agreed to reschedule the next meeting for Monday, December 11<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm in the Town Hall Conference Room. The Committee will review Articles 5 and 6, and potentially review responses from Town Counsel to date.

**On a motion by Geoff Beckwith, seconded by Jesse Arnold, the Charter Review Committee voted 6-0 to adjourn at 8:44 pm.**

**Roll call vote: Chuck Robinson – Yes, Jesse Arnold – Yes, Geoff Beckwith – Yes, Phil Pacino – Yes, Jonathan Barnes – Yes, Chris Haley – Yes.**