

Charter Review Committee
March 19, 2025
Meeting Minutes

In attendance were Michael Cohen, Chair; Brian Boyle, Vice Chair; David Bannard, Clerk; Christopher Rocca; and Chris Lucy. Fred Fehlau joined later in the meeting. Also present were Sue Areson, Select Board Chair, and Kelly Clark, Acting Town Manager.

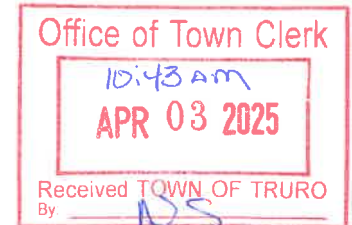
The meeting may be viewed on:

<http://trurotv.truro-ma.gov/CablecastPublicSite/show/7514?site=1>

Chair Cohen called the meeting to order at 5:02 p.m.

1. Public Comment. There were no public comments.
2. Minutes: Michael Cohen circulated the minutes from the meeting on February 26, 2025. Following a motion and a second, the minutes were approved, with Dave Bannard abstaining.
3. Town Website. Michael Cohen stated that there will be no beta test of the Town's new website or links to the Town charter.
4. Proposed Amendment to Town Charter Sections 4-5-2 and 6-2-12. A discussion then followed regarding the interviews conducted by Mike Cohen and Chris Rocca with the Town department heads on March 5-7 concerning the Charter Review Committee's proposed amendments to sections 4-5-2 and 6-2-12 of the Town Charter. Mike and Chris had provided both a summary of the interviews and anonymized summaries of each interview prior to the CRC meeting. Mike expressed gratitude to Acting Town Manager Clark for her assistance in coordinating the interviews and acknowledged the cooperation from her and each of the department heads. Generally, the department heads were very supportive of the proposed amendments. Their primary concerns included being overwhelmed by numerous requests for conversations, the discussions consuming too much time, and the potential for additional work resulting from information requests. Consequently, Mike and Chris proposed to amend the proposed Charter amendments to reflect the discretion of the department heads regarding any such conversations. The committee agreed that "non-directive" includes prohibiting those authorized to speak with the department heads from establishing deadlines, and the CRC recognized that any request for information could create additional work for the department heads. The CRC noted that training for both the department heads and for Select Board members and committee chairs will be crucial to ensure that the proposed changes to the Charter are implemented as intended.

After extensive discussion among the committee members, and with input from Ms. Areson and Ms. Clark, the following motion was made by Dave Bannard, seconded, and adopted unanimously by roll call vote:



To recommend to the Select Board that the proposed amendments to Sections 4-5-2 and 6-2-12 of the Town Charter be amended to add the following proviso at the end of each section: “provided that such interactions occur at the discretion of the Department Head.”

The committee also unanimously voted to recommend approval at Town Meeting of the two amendments submitted to the Select Board and the third Charter amendment revising the date for the annual Town Meeting.

After further discussion, Dave Bannard moved that the Charter Review Committee delegate to Chair Cohen and Vice Chair Boyle the authority to draft an explanation of the three proposed Charter amendments for inclusion in the warrant for the Town Meeting, and the motion was seconded. The motion was adopted unanimously on a roll call vote.

5. Next Agenda. Chair Cohen noted that he and Vice Chair Boyle had received a citizen’s petition to amend the Charter via email on March 19. Since the petition was received on the same date as the CRC meeting and was not included on the posted agenda, it was not eligible for discussion. Ms. Clark mentioned that the Charter Review Committee should evaluate the proposed amendment, and prior to the Town Meeting, the CRC should vote on whether to recommend or not recommend the proposed amendment. This issue will be included in the agenda for the next meeting.
6. Next Meeting: The next meeting of the CRC will be held on Wednesday, April 2, 2025, at 5:00 pm.
7. A motion was made to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously by roll call vote, and the meeting was adjourned at 6:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

David Bannard, Clerk

