

Andover Charter Commission Public Hearing 2018-07-19

Attendance (signed in or recognized):

Carol & Wally Barton
Lorraine & Bill Liswell
Paula & Jack Bailey
Jeff Maguire
John Hannifield
Kim Hawes
Shirley DeFlaviis
Julie Victoria
Dianne Grenier
LeAnne Hutchinson
Sally Doyen (AES Superintendent)

I. Call to order 7:30 pm

II. Introduction of commission members

Dennis Williams, chairperson
Dan Warren, vice chairperson
George Elliott, secretary
Curtis Dowling

Not present:

Ken Marcia
Ken Romeo
Ryan Fitch

III. Jeff Maguire read a draft charge submitted to the BOS (previously circulated by email) and reported that the BOS had not approved a charge for the commission

IV. Comments on lack of diversity in commission membership

Acknowledged by members present
Appointments made by Board of Selectman, no information available regarding pool of volunteers or selection process.
Appointed for 18 months, no fixed deadline for completion of revisions.
Desire to have measure on November 2018 ballot

V. Comments on charter and town governance

1. W. Barton

simplify charter language, reduce legalese
set RHAM budget and Town budget referenda for the same date

2. C. Dowling; eliminate office of First Selectman

3. D. Warren; need to address disjunct between Board of Finance & Board of

4. Selectman.

BOF has authority that is ignored in practice.
Consider elimination of BOF, enlarge BOS

5. L. Hutchinson

Suggest 2-year, staggered terms for BOS
Need more 'teeth' to enforce charter provisions

6. Discussion of May elections for town officials
7. W. Barton; if BOF eliminated, suggest creating position of Finance Director to oversee budget preparation and spending.
8. comments regarding quarterly vs biannual or annual tax billing
9. D. Grenier;
 - a. lack of enforcement of charter provisions
 - b. improve communications
 - online
 - annual report
 - c. budget ballot should separate RHAM, AES and town budgets
 - d. stipends for selectmen
 - e. need for ethics commission
 - f. process for forming commissions and term of office
 - g. sexual harassment training
 - h. Roberts Rules of Order and Freedom of Information training
 - i. appointment and term limits for town attorney
9. Discussion of transfer station fee assessment
 - should procedure for assessment of such fees be addressed in charter revision?
10. Discussion of legal review of charter revisions
 - would it be possible to secure services of a neutral attorney (i.e., not current town attorney)
11. Discussion of minority representation on boards and commissions
12. S. Doyen commented that the relationship of Town Administrator to BOS should be similar to that of Superintendent to BOE, that is, a professional administrator who works with the board, chiefly through its chairperson, to set the agenda and ensure that policy and directives are followed.
13. . Discussion of term limits / consecutive term restrictions for boards and commissions
14. Discussion of town clerk – elected vs appointed position
15. Town hall employees' job descriptions, work hours
16. Need to publicize revision, solicit more public input

Adjourned 9:30 pm