

**CHARTER COMMISSION
MINUTES OF MEETING
July 14, 2022**

CALL TO ORDER– Chairperson Gallagher called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM with members Lorraine Bernier, Arthur Berry, Gayle Chick, Barbara Merrill, Suzette Moulton, James Porter, Stephen Robinson, and James Walker, Jr. present.

MINUTES – Member Berry moved to accept the amended minutes of June 29, 2022 as presented (correct spelling of member Robinson's last name). Member Walker seconded the motion. Discussion: None
Vote: 9-yes 0-no

Member Chick moved to accept the amended minutes of July 6, 2022 as presented (correct spelling of member Robinson's last name). Vice Chair Moulton seconded the motion. Discussion: None
Vote: 8-yes 0-no (1-Abstain, Member Merrill was not present at meeting)

New Business – **Discussion of Public Hearing** – Chair Gallagher thanked the two members of the public and two Select Board members who appeared before the committee to give their input at the public hearing. Member Berry and Member Walker stated that they feel the loss of our “small town” feeling if we move to a referendum style voting procedure. They like the way it is done now giving people the chance to get up and speak out. The rest of the commission members agree that it may be time to change the way town meeting is held. Although most like the actual town meeting itself there were compelling arguments made as to how we keep everyone's right to vote when some may be unable to attend an in-person town meeting. They all agree that a strong look needs to be taken at how the Charter will address giving the townspeople the chance to have their voices heard if we move to a referendum town meeting.

Article 1 – Member Porter brought up the question about what exactly 1.4 means. It talks about financing and the consensus is to get some clarification from the reviewing attorney what that exactly means.

Article 2 – 2.1.b was discussed. Move to change the last sentence to be reworded to state: **Those running for Selectpersons shall establish residence in the Town of Poland prior to taking out nomination papers to circulate.**

2.6.a was discussed. Move to change a partial sentence to state; “by causing notification to be given in hand, left at the usual dwelling place of each Selectperson, or sent by email or text message to the address on file at the Town Office for such purpose.”

2.6.d was discussed. Move to change a partial sentence to state; “Voting shall be by show of hands, or roll call when applicable, except that a vote recording the yeas and nays of the Selectpersons shall be take upon request of any Selectperson.

2.7 was discussed. Move to change a partial sentence to state; “conduct of any Town department, board, committee, or agency”.

2.9.a was discussed. Move to change a partial sentence to state; “and no former Selectperson shall hold any compensated, elected or appointive Town office or Town employment until one year after leaving office of Selectperson.”

Article 3 – 3.4 was discussed. Move to change a partial sentence to state; “the Manager shall designate the Deputy Town Manager in writing, subject to the approval of the Board of Selectpersons,”.

ADJOURN – Member Berry moved to adjourn. Vice Chair Moulton seconded the motion. Discussion: None
Vote: 9-yes 0-no

Recorded by: Nikki M. Pratt