

**Town of Winchendon
Charter and Bylaw Review Committee
Minutes
July 19, 2016**



The meeting was called to order at 3:00 p.m.

Members present: Judy LaJoie (Chair), Dave Walsh (Secretary) Bob O’Keefe, Lee Jacoby, Joe Lafrennie and Rick Ward

Members absent: Bob Zbikowski

Guests: Keith Hickey, Town Manager and Attorney Lauren Goldberg, Town Counsel.

Town Clerk received a letter of resignation from committee member Bob Zbikowski.

The following is a summary of discussions, opinions and recommendations of Town Counsel Lauren Goldberg. A more detailed account will be provided by Lauren Goldberg.

Lauren Goldberg presented several options regarding presenting recommended changes at Town Meeting.

43B Section 10, “Home Rule Procedures Act”

Special Act

CHARTER & BYLAWS

Town Manager Hickey will request opinion of Board of Selectmen regarding referencing the BOS as “Selectboard” in both the Charter and Bylaws.

CHARTER

Article 4

Section 4-2

Lauren Goldberg recommended provision that will authorize Town Manager to sign payroll warrants in the absence of Board of Selectman.

Article 3

Section 3-4

Lauren Goldberg recommended provision for “Deputy Town Moderator” appointment as a temporary position in the event of conflicts or absence of Town Moderator at Town Meeting.

Article 2

Section 2-3

Discussion with Lauren Goldberg regarding registered voter stipulation for committee membership.

CHARTER & BYLAWS

General discussion with Lauren Goldberg regarding changes to Charter and Bylaws.

Lauren Goldberg noted Charter is the main policy of the Town and is a more permanent document (constitution), bylaws (laws) fall under the charter and are subject to more frequent change.

BYLAWS

Discussion regarding adding water shutoff policy to bylaws.

Discussion regarding parking regulations.

Lauren Goldberg noted under M.G.L. 40 s.21 both items fall under of Board of Selectmen policy.

CHARTER

Article 2

Section 2-3

Discussion on removal of 'Planning Board' from charter, reasoning is that it is not a part of the legislative branch of town government. Planning Board is to be added to article 4 section 4-3 planning board.

Article 3

Section 3-2c

Lauren Goldberg noted appointment list is not required, except Town Manager, Town Accountant and Constables. Recommended adding "except as amended by town meeting vote.

Article 3

Section 3-1c

Lauren Goldberg noted all terms for elected officials can begin later than town meeting for example July 1st.

BYLAWS

Article 30

Section 30.1-30.4

Lauren Goldberg noted that all provisions need not be enforced as state law is in place.

Section 30.5

Lauren Goldberg has concerns regarding town's involvement in resolution dispute.

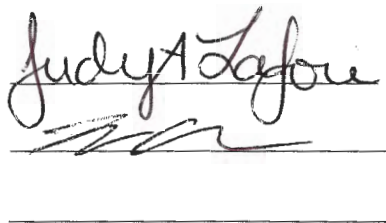
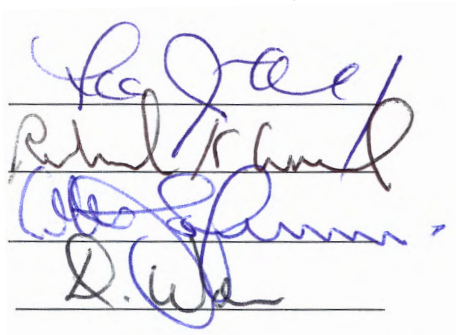
CHARTER & BYLAWS

Lauren Goldberg recommended public hearing on all proposed changes, possible date first week of October.

Motion to Adjourn 5:00 p.m.

Next meeting to be determined

David Walsh Secretary



Approved Aug. 9, 2016