

Minutes June 15, 2023  
Committee of Precinct Chairs  
Great Hall, Town Hall  
7 PM

Present:

Precinct 1 Christine Pratt  
Precinct 2 Matt Tavares  
Precinct 3 Dale Webber  
Precinct 4 Clare Montanari  
Precinct 5 Michael Leary  
Precinct 6 Bill Arienti  
Precinct 7 David Golden  
Precinct 8 Don Williams  
Precinct 9 Kathryn Holmes  
Precinct 10 Alan Costello  
Precinct 11 Frank O'Brien  
Precinct 12 Pat Adelman  
Precinct 13 Susan Wentworth Remote  
Precinct 14 Tom Begley  
Precinct 15 Wrestling Brewster  
Precinct 16 Pompey Delafield  
Precinct 17 Joe Hutchinson  
Precinct 18 Alyse Bruneau Remote

The meeting began at 7 PM with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chair Kathryn Holmes noted that Town Moderator Steve Triffletti and newly elected Selectman Kevin Canty, former Chair of the Advisory and Finance Committee were present. Kathryn announced that the COPC would be reorganizing and voting for officers and also voting for a COPC member to assist Selectman Helm and Moderator Triffletti on the Charter Review Appointment Committee.

Kathryn stated that the Town Clerk would be swearing in town meeting members who have not already been sworn in and also the COPC members would be sworn in as members of the COPC. Kathryn introduced Town Clerk Kelly McElreath and asked Kelly to elaborate on the new policy to have the COPC sworn in. Kelly explained that it is not a new policy but like all other boards and committees, the COPC should take the oath of office. The members of the COPC were sworn in by Town Clerk Kelly McElreath. Town Moderator Steve Triffletti was sworn in as a member of the Charter Review Appointment Committee.

Kathryn received many phone calls about the issue of vice chairs voting at COPC meetings. It has been precedent for over 20 years. Kathryn explained that at this meeting precedent will be followed. The issue needs further review because the Charter is vague. It is something that if the COPC wishes, should be discussed at a future meeting and taken up with the Charter Review Committee. Kathryn also received calls about how the election of the COPC officers was run. Kathryn mentioned that never before was the process questioned with former Chairs Allan Costello, Christine Pratt, Mike Landers, and Bill Abbott. Kathryn said that we trust each other. The issue will be addressed as an agenda item no matter who is the next chair. Tonight, Kathryn will ask Moderator Steve Triffletti to run the election of the chair and then the chair will run the election of vice chair and clerk. Mr. Triffletti will also talk about the Charter Review Committee and the Charter Review Appointment Committee. Mr. Triffletti can answer any procedural questions as he was present when the first COPC met over twenty years ago.

Dale Webber asked that the members introduce themselves as that agenda item was skipped. The Chair apologized and the COPC members introduced themselves.

The Chair acknowledged the service of the Precinct Chairs who did not return, Tom Pinto, Kristopher Houle, and sadly Mike Landers. Alyse Bruneau was recognized for her active participation and wished well in moving to western Massachusetts. The new members, Matt Tavares, Mike Leary, and Tom Begley were welcomed.

Mr. Triffletti announced he will take nominations and call on individuals to vote, not a raise of hand, and the Town Clerk will help with tabulating the votes.

Alan Costello asked to address the issue of the other 8 town meeting members of each precinct. Will they be allowed to fill in for the chair to participate and vote and what about tonight?

Kathryn answered her position is to follow precedent and go on with allowing the two representatives to vote tonight, repeating that the Charter is vague. She said that it should be discussed and brought to the Charter Review Committee.

Town Clerk Kelly McElreath stressed that in all her 22 years of work with boards and committees, she has never seen a member be allowed to give up their vote and give it to another person. It is a committee established by charter and her belief is that it should follow the precedent of all other committees and boards that never allow others to take their place to vote.

Chair Holmes remarked that she would not want to give the impression that the vote was being manipulated by changing the method tonight.

Chris Pratt disagreed with the Town Clerk and stated that it would be a disservice to our precincts to not recognize the value and leadership of the Vice Chairs who have been elected by the precinct.

Joe Hutchinson stated that the work of the COPC is a linkage from Town Hall to precincts to the community. He fails to see the case for cutting that off because a precinct chair has Covid. He agrees with Ms Pratt.

Mr. Triffletti expressed his respect for the Town Clerk and agrees that going forward the issue of vice chairs voting needs to be addressed. It can be taken up by the Charter Review Committee.

Mr. Triffletti understands the desire of precincts to be represented by giving the vice chairs authority to vote as has been done for the last twenty years. He advised to follow precedent tonight.

Mr. Triffletti called for nominations for COPC Chair.

Dale Webber from Precinct 3 nominated David Golden. Seconded by Wrestling Brewster..

Chris Pratt nominated Kathryn Holmes. Seconded by Joe Hutchinson.

Bill Arienti motioned to close the nominations. Seconded by Frank O'Brien.

Dale Webber asked that the candidates say some words about their candidacy.

Mr. Triffletti agreed to allot 5 minutes for each candidate.

David Golden gave a speech followed by Kathryn Holmes.

The vote for Chair was taken:

Precinct 1 Christine Pratt	Kathryn Holmes
Precinct 2 Matt Tavares	Kathryn Holmes
Precinct 3 Dale Webber	David Golden
Precinct 4 Clare Montanari	Kathryn Holmes
Precinct 5 Michael Leary	Kathryn Holmes
Precinct 6 Bill Arienti	Kathryn Holmes
Precinct 7 David Golden	David Golden
Precinct 8 Don Williams	Kathryn Holmes
Precinct 9 Kathryn Holmes	Kathryn Holmes
Precinct 10 Alan Costello	David Golden
Precinct 11 Frank O'Brien	David Golden
Precinct 12 Pat Adelman	Kathryn Holmes
Precinct 13 Susan Wentworth	Kathryn Holmes
Precinct 14 Tom Begley	Kathryn Holmes
Precinct 15 Wrestling Brewster	David Golden
Precinct 16 Pompey Delafield	Kathryn Holmes
Precinct 17 Joe Hutchinson	Kathryn Holmes

Precinct 18 Alyse Bruneau Kathryn Holmes  
David Golden 5  
Kathryn Holmes 13

Mr. Triffletti congratulated Kathryn. David Golden congratulated Kathryn. Kathryn thanked those who voted for her and asked that those who have problems to contact her and work together.

Mr. Golden brought up Roberts Rule of Order. Ms Holmes agreed to accept nominations for Vice Chair before Clerk. Mr. Triffletti explained the COPC follows whatever rules that the COPC has adopted.

Ms Holmes opened up nominations for Vice Chair.

David Golden nominated Wrestling Brewster. Seconded by Alan Costello.

Chris Pratt nominated Matt Tavares. Seconded by Pompey Delafield.

Dale Webber nominated Alan Costello. Seconded by David Golden.

Bill Arienti motioned to close the nominations. Frank O'Brien seconded.

The vote for Vice Chair was taken:

Precinct 1 Christine Pratt	Matt Tavares
Precinct 2 Matt Tavares	Matt Tavares
Precinct 3 Dale Webber	Alan Costello
Precinct 4 Clare Montanari	Wrestling Brewster
Precinct 5 Michael Leary	Matt Tavares
Precinct 6 Bill Arienti	Wrestling Brewster
Precinct 7 David Golden	Wrestling Brewster
Precinct 8 Don Williams	Matt Tavares
Precinct 9 Kathryn Holmes	Matt Tavares
Precinct 10 Alan Costello	Wrestling Brewster
Precinct 11 Frank O'Brien	Matt Tavares
Precinct 12 Pat Adelmann	Matt Tavares
Precinct 13 Susan Wentworth	Matt Tavares
Precinct 14 Tom Begley	Wrestling
Precinct 15 Wrestling Brewster	Wrestling Brewster
Precinct 16 Pompey Delafield	Matt Tavares
Precinct 17 Joe Hutchinson	Matt Tavares
Precinct 18 Alyse Bruneau	Wrestling Brewster
Matt Tavares	10
Wrestling Brewster	7
Alan Costello	1

Kathryn welcomed Matt Tavares to the Vice Chair role.

Matt thanked her and said that anyone who was nominated would have been fantastic.

Ms.Holmes announced that Clare Montanari has decided not be clerk. Kathryn thanked Clare for 7 years of detailed notes and for all the help and dedication that Clare has given. Clare said " I have been doing this since 2017. It's been a chore. I have thoroughly enjoyed it. I learned that everything in life is a learning process. I picked up a lot of information but it's time to step down and I think that everyone is sick of 12 pages of minutes."

Ms.Holmes called for nominations for Clerk.

Clare Montanari nominated Pat Adelmann. Seconded by Bill Arienti.

Kathryn Holmes nominated Dale Webber for Clerk. Dale declined. He could never fill Clare's shoes.

Dale thanked Clare for her "archival history".

Bill Arienti motioned to close the nominations. Seconded by Frank O'Brien.

Kathryn called for the vote for Clerk.

The vote was taken.

Pat Adelmann 18.

Bill Arienti, commented ‘Clare could never be replaced.’ and Joe Hutchinson thanked Clare for “those wonderful notes.” Pompey Delafield also thanked Clare. Chris Pratt asked the COPC to stand and “give Clare a round of admirable applause for the outstanding seven years of service.” The COPC gave Clare a resounding heartwarming applause.

The Chair gave the floor to the Moderator who will talk about the Charter review process. Mr. Triffletti explained that the Charter calls for an Appointment Committee to appoint a Charter Review Committee at least every five years. Before the last election, Mr. Triffletti served on a panel where he said that if the proposed charter failed then he would start the process to establish a Charter Review Committee, CRC. The CRC could decide to adopt some of the proposals from the recently proposed charter. The CRC could also propose policy and procedures to address the issues that came up tonight concerning the vice chairs being allowed to serve and vote on the COPC and the parliamentary procedure for the COPC. The CRC makes a report and Town Meeting decides whether or not to go through with the recommendations. On June 26, there will be a meeting at Town Hall of the Appointment Committee which is composed of Mr. Triffletti, Harry Helm, the Select Board designee, and the designee of the COPC, who will be determined tonight. The composition and size of the CRC will be discussed at the June 26 meeting with opportunity for public comment. The second meeting will be July 10. The town has provided Michelle Turner for support and an email address, charterreview @plymouth-ma.gov. Volunteers wishing to serve on the CRC should state their interest before the July 10 meeting. The meeting times and tasks of the CRC will be decided by the CRC. Mr. Triffletti will set up the first CRC meeting and preside over the election of the chair, after that the function of the CRC is up to its chair and members.

Kathryn called for nominations for the Charter Review appointment Committee. Wrestling Brewster nominated Bill Arienti. Seconded by Don Williams  
Joe Hutchinson nominated Pompey Delafield. Seconded by Frank O’Brien.  
Alan Costella nominated Joe Hutchinson. Joe declined because he plans to apply for the CRC.  
Alan Costello assumes that you can not be on the Appointing Committee and serve on the CRC, as it would be a conflict of interest. Chris Pratt agreed.  
Bill Arienti motioned to close the nominations. Seconded by Don Williams.  
Chris Pratt asked both candidates if they were planning to serve on the CRC. Both said no.  
Alan asked the candidates to give a one minute snippet of their views.  
Bill Arienti emphasized the importance of being open minded. He kept low key on the Charter question because he did not want to influence anyone. He said the Charter is the owner’s manual on how this town runs. He wants to see people on the CRC who are willing to compromise and negotiate for the best that we can get for this town.  
Pompey Delafield believes the participants should be open minded and come from a cross section of different perspectives to get a well balanced committee. He has served as a town supervisor in the state of New York. He had to find and appoint people who were opened and willing to do the job.  
Joe Hutchinson endorsed Pompey because of his background and calm characteristics.

The vote for COPC designee to the Charter Review Appointing Committee was taken:

Precinct 1 Christine Pratt	Pompey Delafield
Precinct 2 Matt Tavares	Pompey Delafield
Precinct 3 Dale Webber	Pompey Delafield
Precinct 4 Clare Montanari	Bill Arienti
Precinct 5 Michael Leary	Pompey Delafield
Precinct 6 Bill Arienti	Bill Arienti
Precinct 7 David Golden	Bill Arienti
Precinct 8 Don Williams	Bill Arienti
Precinct 9 Kathryn Holmes	Bill Arienti
Precinct 10 Alan Costello	Bill Arienti
Precinct 11 Frank O’Brien	Pompey Delafield
Precinct 12 Pat Adelman	Bill Arienti
Precinct 13 Susan Wentworth	Pompey Delafield
Precinct 14 Tom Begley	Pompey Delafield
Precinct 15 Wrestling Brewster	Bill Arienti

Precinct 16 Pompey Delafield	Pompey Delafield
Precinct 17 Joe Hutchinson	Pompey Delafield
Precinct 18 Alyse Bruneau	Bill Arienti
Bill Arienti 9	
Pompey Delafield 9	

Bill Arienti withdrew his nomination and gave it to Mr. Delafield.  
Mr. Delafield was sworn in by Town Clerk, Kelly McElreath.  
Chris Pratt praised the actions of Mr. Arienti and said that it was testament to the professionalism, integrity, and courtesy of this committee. That's what we need to see going forward.

Town Manager Derek Brindisi came to the podium to explain the mishap with scheduling a second COPC meeting on the first Monday of the month. The Zoning Board of Appeals only has five members as opposed to the 18 member COPC. Administration thought it would be easy enough to move the ZBA to the Court House. The ZBA now is recording the meetings on PACTV. ZBA was not happy with the move. So the ZBA is back in the Great Hall and another spot will be available for the COPC second meetings.

Mr. Brindisi introduced Nick Hill, the Facilities Manager.  
Nick Hill presented the Capital Outlook Report on facilities  
There are 32 buildings ranging from being built in the 1700's to current construction.  
In 2018, a Dude solutions report was done allowing the town to project out to twenty years.  
\$40,000,000 is expected to be spent over the next 10 years. There is a lot of work that needs to be done. It can't all be accomplished within the \$40 million.  
The department has 8 custodians, 4 craftsmen, and a position for an HVAC technician, which has no applicants yet. It's a talented team with help from talented contractors.  
Alan Costello asked what a site pole replacement is? Nick answered that it means telephone poles, light poles, lights on the side of buildings  
Joe Hutchinson asked of the tasks that you don't have the capacity to achieve, what are the elements: time, staff, expertise? Nick replied what we can't do in house and have to contract out has a monetary aspect. Example if the bathrooms at Memorial Hall need replacement that would require a contract. Joe would like a priority list. Nick replied that we do have a priority list. A roof is higher priority. It depends on the conditions and circumstances that are always changing.  
Kathryn said the Dude solutions report has to be updated so that town meeting members know what we are dealing with now.  
The Dude Solutions Report is online. Kathryn asked for something that is not two years old.  
Mr. Brindisi said that we do not have the funding for Dude Solutions reports. Needs keep changing. The projects get pushed to the next year because there is no funding. We have more capital needs than resources. The stabilization fund is not meeting the 5% allocation. It will take 15 years to take care of the existing roads.  
Don Williams asked if selling some of the more expensive buildings is being considered and what about the crematory and the airport? Derek replied that we are having internal discussions.  
Don Williams commented that you are doing a good job and identifying the gaps. How deep the gaps are need to be determined.  
Derek said the question is do we want to keep old buildings that require maintenance and takes away from the priorities?  
Bill Arienti: Discussed dual tax rate.  
Joe Hutchinson: The airport is an asset. Would you want to sell that asset?  
Derek: Some municipalities outsource airport management. Others sell them off.  
Joe Hutchinson asked what about hiring a consultant?  
Derek answered that you can hire a consultant for anything.  
Chris Pratt said that we traditionally take the approach that we have to cut expenses and raise taxes. Two years ago there was a revenue raising task force. 13 recommendations were presented to raise revenue. Only two were accepted. One was the excise tax on marijuana sales and the second one was the increase in alarm fees for repeat offenders. We now have a stagnant Revenue Raising Task Force. What are we doing to come up with creative ideas for revenue aside from the traditional cut and tax burden on the taxpayers?

Mr. Brindisi asked if that was that the Pilots, Silots, and Gilot? Chris Pratt answered that was one of 13. Derek will be happy to work with Mr. Malaguti on Revenue Raising. Chris recommends revising the Revenue Task Force and look at some of those 7 year old suggestions. Wrestling Brewster commented that about 5 years ago Town Meeting was surprised that our buildings were falling apart. This report is very important to know that we need a new roof or a new school. We need to keep up this report. Mr. Brindisi said it is important that Ms Barrett come in and give a finance report. Don Williams asked about ecotourism. It might need investment in the beginning but will generate revenue in the long term. Mr. Brindisi warned of the risk of split tax rate. Nick Hall proceeded into second part of the report. He has a talented team but needs to expand the team to include: a foreman, another craftsman, a plumber, and an electrician. Alan Costello said that some of those positions were funded by Town Meeting and we don't know where they went. Derek said we lost those position to COVID. Kathryn Holmes said the COPC was willing to go to Town Meeting last spring and ask for the salary of an electrician but was told that it was more cost effective to contract out. The discussion continued about justifying full time tradesmen. Kathryn wanted to know if Nick can guarantee that the buildings are safe. Nick said the that the safety issues have been resolved. Kathryn asked Dale Webber to comment on staffing. Dale said that there are recruitment and retention problems with staffing because we don't pay enough. The staffing level now is lower than it was 50 years ago. Alan asked how many staff are licensed. Nick answered that only the craftsmen are licensed. Susan Wentworth asked if the salaries listed are comparable to surrounding towns? Nick answered that they are comparable to the school department. Dale noted that the school department just lost the facilities manager, who on call 24/7 all year. she went on to a job with better conditions and pay. Alan asked what Nick's budget is? Nick said the operating budget is just over 1 million dollars. Kathryn thanked Nick for coming.

Mr. Brindisi reported that the second Monday of the month is available for any COPC second meetings. Wrestling Brewster motioned to rescind the vote for having a meeting on the 1<sup>st</sup> Monday of the month. Seconded by Clare Montanari. The vote was taken. Yes 17 No 1 Joe Hutchinson Missing Alyce Bruneau. Wrestling Brewster motioned to meet on the second Monday of the month as needed. Seconded by Matt Tavares. Clare motioned to close discussion. The vote was taken. Yes 17 Abstained 1 Joe Hutchinson

Clare asked for a motion to approve the minutes of April 23, 2023. Wrestling Brewster motioned. Matt Tavares seconded. The vote was taken. Yes 15 Abstained 3 Dale Webber, Mike Leary, Tom Leary

#### New Business

Update Town Meeting Handbook

Kathryn will send an email asking for anyone wishing to serve on the subcommittee.

Alan Costello said a subcommittee was already started several years ago.

Bill Arienti asked Mr Brindisi if his office has any policy about misinformation from quasi government agencies on social media?

Mr. Brindisi answered it is something that they are working on with Town Counsel.

Bill Arienti read a letter addressing trash and a ban on nip bottles. He asked for support from the COPC.

The open space committee has an article going on nip bottles before Fall Town Meeting.

Kathryn suggested that we bring in the Open Space Committee too explain the article.

Kathryn wants input from COPC members about what we should be doing.

The oversight committee is still receiving members.

Dale Webber asked for interested persons to respond to a survey. He will email it to Kathryn to send it to all of us.

Public comment:

Al Dinardo spoke about how easy it is to get the Plymouth 400 license plate. He has asked the town manager to have all committee and board meetings on ZOOM. Mr. Dinardo asked that we have the state delegation come in and discuss unfunded mandates. Mr. Dinardo would like the Town Counsel to investigate County Government.

Wrestling Brewster motioned to adjourn.

All were in favor.

Adjourned at 9:55 PM

Minutes approved 7/20/2023