

TOWN OF PLYMOUTH

CHARTER REVIEW COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

January 16, 2024

*Pursuant to Governor Baker's March 12, 2020, Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L. c. 30A, §18 and further updates, this meeting was conducted in a **Virtual format only**. A Zoom Meeting link was provided.*

These minutes are not verbatim – they are the recording secretary's interpretation of what took place at the meeting, per Open Meeting Law, G.L. C 30A, § 22.

The Charter Review Committee held a scheduled meeting on Tuesday, January 16, 2024, 6 PM, at the Plymouth Townhall, Ropewalk Meeting Room, 2nd Floor, 26 Court Street, Plymouth, MA 02360.

In attendance: Chair David Golden, Vice Chair Alan Costello via Zoom, and members Joseph Hutchinson, Len Levin, Laurence Pizer and Martha Vautrain.

Absent: Betty Cavacco, Tim Lawlor and Robert Zupperoli

Alternates: Steve Bolotin and Mike Hanlon were present and appointed as full-voting members for this meeting due to absence of 3 members.

Staff assistant Michelle Turner was also present.

CALL TO ORDER

David Golden, Chair called the meeting to order at 6 PM, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

January 2, 2024

Laurence Pizer MOTIONED to approve the meeting Minutes, as presented. 2nd by Martha Vautrain.

	YES	NO	ABSTAIN			YES	NO	ABSTAIN
Betty Cavacco				Martha Vautrain	X			
Alan Costello	X			Robert Zupperoli				
Joe Hutchinson	X			David Golden-CHAIR	X			
Tim Lawlor				Steve Bolotin	X			
Len Levin	X			Mike Hanlon			X	
Larry Pizer	X			*Alternate votes are taken but their vote is not included in the vote tally unless the alternate replaces an absent full standing member.				

MOTION PASSED 7-0-1.

The Chair called for Public Comment – no public comment was offered

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

Meeting Schedule was discussed, and a proposed meeting calendar was issued. Meetings were proposed as in-person meeting followed by zoom meeting.

Consensus was that members would like to meet more frequently rather than longer sessions

Laurence Pizer suggested all meetings continue to be hybrid.

Michelle Turner will confirm the room availability.

January 23rd meeting will be Zoom only and there is NO meeting scheduled for January 30.

The weekly schedule will begin in February.

Section 5 Attendance of Representative Town Meeting Members

2-5-1 Representative town meeting members shall attend all representative town meeting sessions. Each calendar day during which any portion or portions of a representative town meeting or meetings is/are conducted shall be deemed to be a single “representative town meeting session.

Mr. Pizer MOTIONED to delete the dangling quotation mark in the 3rd line, 2nd Steve Bolotin.

	YES	NO	ABSTAIN			YES	NO	ABSTAIN
Betty Cavacco					Martha Vautrain	X		
Alan Costello	X				Robert Zupperoli			
Joe Hutchinson	X				David Golden-CHAIR	X		
Tim Lawlor					Steve Bolotin	X		
Len Levin	X				Mike Hanlon	X		
Larry Pizer	X				*Alternate votes are taken but their vote is not included in the vote tally unless the alternate replaces an absent full standing member.			

MOTION PASSED 8-0-0

2-5-2 During each representative town meeting session, the Town Clerk shall cause the attendance to be taken prior to the commencement of the session. A record of those in attendance shall be kept open until the end of each representative town meeting session to enable latecomers to be recorded as present. The attendance record shall be public and be made part of the representative town meeting proceedings.

Joseph Hutchinson MOTIONED to move Section 2-5-2 to the Town Clerk's section of the Charter

	YES	NO	ABSTAIN			YES	NO	ABSTAIN
Betty Cavacco					Martha Vautrain	X		
Alan Costello	X				Robert Zupperoli			
Joe Hutchinson	X				David Golden-CHAIR	X		
Tim Lawlor					Steve Bolotin	X		
Len Levin	X				Mike Hanlon	X		
Larry Pizer	X				*Alternate votes are taken but their vote is not included in the vote tally unless the alternate replaces an absent full standing member.			

MOTION PASSED 8-0-0

2-5-3 A representative town meeting member who moves from the town shall cease to be a town meeting member and a representative town meeting member who moves from the precinct from which the representative was elected to another precinct may serve only until the next annual town meeting. The ~~town Town clerk Clerk may shall~~ also declare the seat vacant if the registrars of voters, ~~under sections 47B, 48 and 49 of chapter 51 of the General Laws or any other applicable law,~~ determine that the representative town meeting member is illegally or incorrectly registered to vote in that precinct.

Laurence Pizer MOTIONED to change the word "may" to "shall" in the 4th line, 2nd Joseph Hutchinson and eliminate the red strike-through text, shown above

	YES	NO	ABSTAIN			YES	NO	ABSTAIN
Betty Cavacee				Martha Vautrain	X			
Alan Costello	X			Robert Zupperoli				
Joe Hutchinson	X			David Golden-CHAIR	X			
Tim Lawlor				Steve Bolotin	X			
Len Levin	X			Mike Hanlon	X			
Larry Pizer	X			*Alternate votes are taken but their vote is not included in the vote tally unless the alternate replaces an absent full standing member.				

MOTION PASSED 8-0-0

Discussion ensued. A subcommittee of 3 members will form to redraft the first sentence of 2-5-3

Steve Bolotin MOTIONED to move Section 2-5-3 to Section 2-2-3 (Eligibility section), 2nd Laurence Pizer.

	YES	NO	ABSTAIN			YES	NO	ABSTAIN
Betty Cavacee				Martha Vautrain	X			
Alan Costello	X			Robert Zupperoli				
Joe Hutchinson	X			David Golden-CHAIR	X			
Tim Lawlor				Steve Bolotin	X			
Len Levin	X			Mike Hanlon	X			
Larry Pizer	X			*Alternate votes are taken but their vote is not included in the vote tally unless the alternate replaces an absent full standing member.				

MOTION PASSED 8-0-0

Section 6 Moderator

No discussion at this time.

The Chair asked all members to review Sections 6, 10 and 12 and submit their proposals to the Chair for discussion at a future meeting.

Section 7 Rights of Non-Members

2-7-1 Residents and taxpayers of the town may speak on any article in a warrant subject to ~~the such procedural rules of Town Meetings as the Moderator may impose.~~

Laurence Pizer MOTIONED to approve 2-7-1, as proposed, 2nd Martha Vautrain.

	YES	NO	ABSTAIN		YES	NO	ABSTAIN
Betty Cavacco				Martha Vautrain	X		
Alan Costello	X			Robert Zupperoli			
Joe Hutchinson	X			David Golden-CHAIR	X		
Tim Lawlor				Steve Bolotin	X		
Len Levin	X			Mike Hanlon	X		
Larry Pizer	X			*Alternate votes are taken but their vote is not included in the vote tally unless the alternate replaces an absent full standing member.			

MOTION PASSED 8-0-0

Section 8 Compulsory Attendance

2-8-1 All town officers, ~~T~~the Town Manager, the ~~town~~ ~~Town engineer~~ ~~Engineer~~, all Department heads or their designated representatives, and any other staff designated by the Town Manager shall attend all Representative Town Meetings.

~~The chairpersons and/or their designated representatives of the Select Board, the Planning Board, the School Committee, Boards and~~

~~Commissions or their designated representatives, and the Advisory and Finance Committee shall attend all Representative Town Meetings, and all department heads or those officials' designated representatives, shall attend all representative town meeting sessions. They shall have all the privileges of representative town meeting members, except the power to vote, unless they have been elected to the office of representative town meeting member. The absence of any such person shall not invalidate the actions of the representative Representative town Town meeting Meeting.~~

Discussion ensued.

Mike Hanlon MOTIONED to move and combine Section 2-8 with Section 2-5, 2nd Steve Bolotin.

	YES	NO	ABSTAIN		YES	NO	ABSTAIN
Betty Cavacco				Martha Vautrain	X		
Alan Costello	X			Robert Zupperoli			
Joe Hutchinson	X			David Golden-CHAIR	X		
Tim Lawlor				Steve Bolotin	X		
Len Levin	X			Mike Hanlon	X		
Larry Pizer	X			*Alternate votes are taken but their vote is not included in the vote tally unless the alternate replaces an absent full standing member.			

MOTION PASSED 8-0-0

Joseph Hutchinson MOTIONED to approve 2-8-1 as written, 2nd Steve Bolotin.

	YES	NO	ABSTAIN		YES	NO	ABSTAIN
Betty Cavacco				Martha Vautrain	X		
Alan Costello	X			Robert Zupperoli			
Joe Hutchinson	X			David Golden-CHAIR	X		
Tim Lawlor				Steve Bolotin	X		
Len Levin	X			Mike Hanlon	X		
Larry Pizer	X			*Alternate votes are taken but their vote is not included in the vote tally unless the alternate replaces an absent full standing member.			

MOTION PASSED 8-0-0

A new Section 2-7-2 was proposed as follows:

2-7-2 All Town Officials, elected or appointed, shall have all the privileges of Representative Town Meeting Members, except the power to vote, unless they have been elected to the office of Representative Town Meeting Member.

Steve Bolotin MOTIONED to approve 2-7-2, as written, , 2nd Len Levin.

	YES	NO	ABSTAIN		YES	NO	ABSTAIN
Betty Cavacco				Martha Vautrain	X		
Alan Costello	X			Robert Zupperoli			
Joe Hutchinson	X			David Golden-CHAIR	X		
Tim Lawlor				Steve Bolotin	X		
Len Levin	X			Mike Hanlon		X	
Larry Pizer	X			*Alternate votes are taken but their vote is not included in the vote tally unless the alternate replaces an absent full standing member.			

MOTION PASSED 7-1-0

Section 9 Filling Vacancies

2-9-1 The Town Clerk shall notify forthwith the precinct of any vacancy which occurs in a precinct delegation.

No changes to 2-9-1 at this time.

2-9-2 The person who received the highest number of votes among the unsuccessful representative town meeting member candidates at the most recent election in the precinct shall fill the vacancy until the next regular election. If such person declines, or is unable to fill the vacancy, or 10 days pass without response, the person who received the next highest number of votes among the unsuccessful representative town meeting member candidates at the most recent election shall fill the vacancy until the next regular election. If the vacancy cannot be filled in this manner, the precinct caucus delegation shall vote to fill the vacancy until the next regular election. If necessary, the Town Clerk shall call members of the precinct caucus delegation together by written notice and shall conduct the election.

Len Levin MOTIONED to accept the changes as proposed, 2nd Martha Vautrain

	YES	NO	ABSTAIN			YES	NO	ABSTAIN
<i>Betty Cavacco</i>					Martha Vautrain	X		
<i>Alan Costello</i>	X				<i>Robert Zupperoli</i>			
<i>Joe Hutchinson</i>	X				David Golden-CHAIR	X		
<i>Tim Lawlor</i>					Steve Bolotin	X		
<i>Len Levin</i>	X				Mike Hanlon	X		
<i>Larry Pizer</i>	X				*Alternate votes are taken but their vote is not included in the vote tally unless the alternate replaces an absent full standing member.			

MOTION PASSED 8-0-0

Section 11 Caucuses

Laurence Pizer motioned to table discussion on Section 11, at this time, 2nd Joseph Hutchinson

	YES	NO	ABSTAIN			YES	NO	ABSTAIN
<i>Betty Cavacco</i>					Martha Vautrain	X		
<i>Alan Costello</i>		X			<i>Robert Zupperoli</i>			
<i>Joe Hutchinson</i>	X				David Golden-CHAIR		X	
<i>Tim Lawlor</i>					Steve Bolotin		X	
<i>Len Levin</i>		X			Mike Hanlon		X	
<i>Larry Pizer</i>	X				*Alternate votes are taken but their vote is not included in the vote tally unless the alternate replaces an absent full standing member.			

MOTION FAILED 3-5-0

Section 11 Caucuses

2-11-1 The representative town meeting members from each precinct shall, within twenty (20) days following each town election, meet and elect from among their own precincts' representative town meeting members, a chairperson, vice-chairperson, and clerk, to serve for a term of one (1) year, and shall file a notice of such organization with the Town Clerk. If the Town Clerk fails to receive a notice of organization within twenty-one (21) days following a town election, the Town Clerk shall immediately call a meeting of the representative town meeting members from such precincts that have failed to organize, for the purposes of organizing.

No changes proposed on 2-11-1

2-11-2 Each precinct delegation shall hold a caucus meeting for the purpose of reviewing the subject matter of the upcoming representative town meeting. Caucus meetings may be held in conjunction with other precinct delegations.

No changes proposed on 2-11-2

2-11-3 Each precinct chairperson shall arrange for the posting of notices of caucus meetings in town hall and on the town's website. Each such caucus meeting shall be conducted under the open meeting law established by section 20 of chapter 30A of the General Laws.

No changes proposed on 2-11-3

2-11-4 ~~The precinct chairpersons shall meet together within forty five (45) days following each town election, and shall organize as a Committee of Precinct Chairs, electing a Chairperson and a Clerk. In addition to the meetings described in 2-11-1 and 2-11-2, each precinct delegation shall hold at least two additional meetings for the purposes of engaging the public.~~

Joseph Hutchinson MOTIONED to delete current text of 2-11-4, 2nd Mike Hanlon.

	YES	NO	ABSTAIN			YES	NO	ABSTAIN
Betty Cavacco				Martha Vautrain	X			
Alan Costello	X			Robert Zupperoli				
Joe Hutchinson			X	David Golden-CHAIR	X			
Tim Lawlor				Steve Bolotin	X			
Len Levin	X			Mike Hanlon	X			
Larry Pizer	X			*Alternate votes are taken but their vote is not included in the vote tally unless the alternate replaces an absent full standing member.				

MOTION PASSED 7-0-1

2-11-4 In addition to the meetings described in 2-11-1 and 2-11-2, each precinct delegation shall hold at least two additional meetings, ~~for the purposes of engaging the public.~~

Len Levin MOTIONED to accept the new text of 2-11-4, 2nd Mike Hanlon

	YES	NO	ABSTAIN			YES	NO	ABSTAIN
Betty Cavacco				Martha Vautrain	X			
Alan Costello		X		Robert Zupperoli				
Joe Hutchinson	X			David Golden-CHAIR		X		
Tim Lawlor				Steve Bolotin	X			
Len Levin	X			Mike Hanlon	X			
Larry Pizer		X		*Alternate votes are taken but their vote is not included in the vote tally unless the alternate replaces an absent full standing member.				

MOTION PASSED 5-3-0

2-11-4 In addition to the meetings described in 2-11-1 and 2-11-2, each precinct delegation ~~shall~~may hold at least two additional meetings for the purposes of engaging the public.

Alan Costello MOTIONED to replace the word “shall” with the word “may”,
2nd David Golden

	YES	NO	ABSTAIN		YES	NO	ABSTAIN
Betty Cavacco				Martha Vautrain		X	
Alan Costello	X			Robert Zupperoli			
Joe Hutchinson		X		David Golden-CHAIR	X		
Tim Lawlor				Steve Bolotin		X	
Len Levin		X		Mike Hanlon		X	
Larry Pizer	X			*Alternate votes are taken but their vote is not included in the vote tally unless the alternate replaces an absent full standing member.			

MOTION FAILED 3-5-0

Alan Costello offered to propose language for enforcement of the charter.

The chair called for proposals for Sections 6, 10 and 12. If changes are not proposed, these sections are not planned for further review.

NEW BUSINESS/OLD BUSINESS: None

Meeting adjourned at 9:10 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle A. Turner

Michelle A. Turner

Minutes Approved on: January 23, 2024