

TOWN OF SANDWICH

Charter Review Committee February 15, 2023

TOWN CLERK
TOWN OF SANDWICH

MAR 07 2023

9 H O I M A N G
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Present: D. Sampson, J. Coogan, J. Fitch, K. Renzi, J. Roche

Mr. Sampson called the meeting to order.

Pledge of Allegiance

Old Business

Review Responses from Town Counsel

Mr. Fitch is impressed with the three proposed warrant articles – housekeeping changes, town clerk appointment, and non-binding change to Representative Town Meeting (RTM). Regarding the non-binding article, this is a good way to introduce the subject. Mr. Roche has no problem with the articles as written but disagrees with presenting the non-binding article. He states that the Committee was appointed for six months but was extended by the Select Board to complete the work. The Committee went before the Select Board for consent to put the RTM on the warrant and it is the Committee's duty to come back with the recommendation, not a question. The RTM was approved by the majority of the Committee, and Mr. Roche proposes that the RTM idea be fleshed out fully; the Committee should do as mandated and provide a recommendation.

Discussion followed with the following points/questions debated:

- Whether the Committee is charged with providing details for the recommendation for RTM (would need another extension) as part of its duties.
- If this is not within the Committee charge, who would develop the details, should the article pass at Town Meeting?
- The Committee is not addressing in detail the job description for the Town Clerk if appointed, so why would it need detail for the RTM recommendation (Note: the job description for the Clerk is already developed).
- It is the Committee's obligation to make recommendations to the Select Board; the prior meeting was to gauge the Select Board's willingness to put RTM on the warrant.
- Because there appears to be division of opinion about RTM among both the Committee and the public, time should not be spent developing details. The upcoming forum will be educational with major points of the articles highlighted.

Mr. Roche moved to not recommend the non-binding question regarding the change of format for Town Meeting. No second.

Mr. Fitch moved that the three articles as drafted by Town Counsel at our request be presented formally to the Selectmen as recommendations for Town Meeting. Seconded by Mr. Coogan. The motion passes with four in favor (Sampson, Fitch, Coogan, Renzi) and one opposed (Roche)

Mr. Sampson will try to arrange another meeting with the Select Board after the public forum to present the Committee recommendations, the articles, and the supporting materials.

Public Information Session – March 6, 2023 7:00 PM. Town Hall

Mr. Sampson has made arrangements for the public information session to be held on March 6, 2023 at 7:00 PM at the Town Hall; this will be a posted meeting. Important clean-up items, Town Clerk appointment, and information about RTM will be presented and public input or questions solicited. He will begin to develop PowerPoint slides. If anyone has questions or information they would like covered, get them to Melissa Carrol at the town administration office. There should be a regular posted Committee meeting scheduled for prior to the forum. Information will be placed in the *Enterprise* and on Facebook.

Other Matters Related to Charter Review

Mr. Roche remarked that there is lack of specificity in the Charter regarding the duties of the Charter Review Committee. The recommendation for the review is every 10 years and he believes there should be a clearly defined mandate added to the Charter, so Committee members know what they are supposed to do. This topic is worthy of discussion, and he would like to see it on a future meeting agenda.

Public Forum

A representative from Sandwich Stands spoke about the organization and said that they had been trained as facilitators of small groups. The organization has set up some information sessions following the March 6th forum. They have developed an information flyer. Mr. Coogan hopes the members will attend the forum. There is a link to a guide to town meeting on the organization's website.

Adjournment

It was moved and seconded to adjourn. Approved unanimously.

The meeting ended at 7:38 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Susan James, Recording Secretary