

TOWN OF SANDWICH

Charter Review Committee February 27, 2023

TOWN CLERK  
TOWN OF SANDWICH

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**Present:** D. Sampson, J. Coogan, P. Schrader, J. Fitch, J. Roche, S. James (remote)

**Mr. Sampson called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM**

**Review Minutes** Mr. Coogan moved to approve the minutes of January 7, 2023 and February 15, 2023.  
**Seconded by Mr. Fitch. Approved unanimously.**

**Old Business**

**Information Forum** The forum will be held on March 6, 2023 at 7:00 PM at Town Hall. It will be recorded by SCTV, and Mr. Sampson will ask Tao Woolfe to put it in the *Enterprise*. Mr. Coogan wondered if there could be notice by email distribution. Mr. Sampson will develop a slide presentation; Mr. Coogan volunteered to assist. Mr. Sampson has talked with Mr. Dunham about returning to the Select Board with the Committee's recommendations – either March 9<sup>th</sup> or March 23<sup>rd</sup>. Committee preference is the 23<sup>rd</sup>.

For the information forum there will be three topics – housekeeping changes, appointed clerk, and representative town meeting. Mr. Roche asked whether we need numbers for the RTM, maybe a hypothetical scenario. Mr. Fitch said the smaller the number of participants, the more interested the participants would be – maybe 100 total. Currently about 200 people attend open town meeting, but many are not prepared for the meeting. Mr. Sampson said that he would hope that people who run as representatives would be prepared, actively participate and be ready to take action. Another issue is whether the members of the Select Board or Finance Committee could be elected as representatives – this would be at the discretion of the Charter. Mr. Coogan believes town meeting attendance is more than 200 and it is too broad a statement to say people are not prepared. Mr. Sampson will track down the numbers. Mr. Schrader says that another problem is special interest groups who leave after their issue is voted. Mr. Roche likes the number 422, which is 2.5% of the registered voters. He distributed comparison information from communities with RTM - % of registered voters per population numbers, size of the RTM, and number of representatives per registered voters. There are two or three on the list that are similar to Sandwich; their percentage of representatives is less than 1% of registered voters, with numbers of representatives ranging from ~160 to 240.

Discussion followed about who would be responsible for developing the details if the RTM passes at town meeting as well as clarifying duties of the CRC within the charter. Some members believe that it would be the responsibility of the Charter Committee to do it; the Select Board would need to extend the time by another six months.

**Mr. Roche moved to amend Section 9.3 of the charter to read “for a period of no longer than 9 months or at the discretion of the Select Board”. Seconded by Mr. Coogan. Approved unanimously.**

Mr. Sampson will present the recommendations at the forum.

**Adjournment**

**Mr. Coogan moved to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Ms. James. Approved unanimously.**

The meeting adjourned at 7:42 PM.

**Next Meeting: March 6, 2023 7:00 PM at the Town Hall**

Respectfully submitted,



Susan James, Recording Secretary

