

Harvard Charter Commission
Meeting Minutes
October 5, 2017
Upper Town Hall – Volunteer Government Room

Members present: Paul Cohen (Chair), Rick Maiore Sharon McCarthy, George McKenna, Stephanie Opalka, Ron Ostberg, Charles Redinger, Cindy Russo (by phone for vote), Peter Warren.

Paul Cohen called the meeting to order at 5:03 p.m. There was no public comment and were no minutes to approve.

The commissioners reviewed each page of the Charter for clarity, consistency, and completeness.

Charles Redinger wanted to ensure that boards could have some input into the appointments of new members to their boards by the Select Board. In Section 3-1 (e) 3. Appointed Agency Positions, the commission added, “The agency with the vacancy may make a recommendation to the Select Board to fill the vacancy.”

George McKenna asked what the commissioners’ mission was after voting on the Charter tonight. Paul said that when the final Charter is sent October 12 to the Attorney General, the Department of Housing and Community Development and the Board of Selectmen, the commission has finished its task. The commission cannot advocate for the Charter, he said. Commissioners who want to educate residents about the pros and cons of the Charter can do so as individuals.

Cindy Russo joined the meeting by telephone to participate in the vote. The vote required roll-call voting since not all members were physically present.

Rick Maiore moved and Peter seconded to accept, recommend, and forward the final Charter report as amended tonight to the Board of Selectmen, the Attorney General, and the Department of Housing and Community Development by October 12. Voting:

Cindy Russo	yes	George McKenna	yes	Stephanie Opalka	yes
Sharon McCarthy	yes	Peter Warren	no	Ron Ostberg	yes
Charles Reddinger	no	Rick Maiore	yes	Paul Cohen	yes

The motion passed 7-2 with Charles and Peter voting in the negative.

The next meeting is scheduled for October 11 at 4 p.m. in the Volunteers’ Meeting Room.

Paul adjourned the meeting at 7:11 p.m.

Laura Andrews, Recorder