

ASHLAND CHARTER REVIEW COMMITTEE MINUTES  
January 11, 2018  
Ashland Town Hall – Room A

Members in attendance: Alexis Christopher (Alexis), KG Narayana (KG), Steve Greenberg (Steve), Vice Chairman Ken Rush (Ken) Chairman Roberta Soolman (Roberta)

Members absent: Joe Magnani (Joe), Betsy Emberley (Betsy)

Guest: None

Resident: None

Call to order: 7:00 pm

**1. Welcome and Introductions:** Roberta welcomed everyone.

**2. Review and respond to Open Meeting Law Complaint dated 12/11/17 filed by Steven Morgan regarding an email communication dated**

**11/11/17:** The committee members in attendance:

- a) Reviewed and discussed the Open Meeting Law Complaint and the draft response from Katherine Feodoroff, Town Counsel dated January 12, 2018;
- b) Recommended the following changes to the response:
  - i. Third to the last paragraph: 6 lines up from bottom, change “repeated” to “repeatedly”;
  - ii. Next to the last paragraph: change first word “Regardless” to “Furthermore” and remove last sentence;
  - iii. Last paragraph: remove second sentence.

**3. Approve minutes of meeting on December 4, 2017.** The committee members reviewed the draft meeting minutes and corrected 2 minor typing errors. Motion made by Steve to approve minutes as amended, seconded by Alexis and voted 4-0-1 (KG not at that meeting).

**4. Review Board of Selectmen’s Amendments to the Charter Review Committee’s Recommendations:**

- a) Roberta distributed a copy of the draft Board of Selectmen (BoS) Minutes dated July 26, 2017 that contained the results of the Board of Selectmen review of the CRC’s recommended Charter changes and the BoS proposed changes. Discussion ensued concerning how these BoS proposed changes did not correspond to the BoS updated Charter document received at the December 4, 2017 meeting of the CRC. The committee found that the two documents did not match.
- b) At this time, this discussion was tabled to re-open the Open Meeting Law Complaint discussion from Item 2.

**5. Re-open Item 2 - Review and respond to Open Meeting Law Complaint dated 12/11/17 filed by Steven Morgan regarding an email communication dated 11/11/17:**

- a) Motion made by Steve, seconded by Ken and voted 5-0-0 to authorize the Chair (Roberta) to discuss the committee's recommended changes to the response with Katherine and to settle on the final wording for our response with her.

**6 Re-open Item 4 - Review Board of Selectmen's Amendments to the Charter Review Committee's Recommendations.** The committee continued the discussion.

- a) The discrepancies between the various versions of the Charter were impossible to resolve. Issues included but were not limited to missing section(s), numbering problems and wordsmithing errors.
- b) As stated in the BoS 7/26/17 minutes, there is an opportunity for the CRC to agree with the BoS proposed changes by consensus, vote on the proposed changes or refer the vote to town meeting. The CRC members were inclined towards the latter option.
- c) The committee members felt that they needed to include Betsy and Joe in the deliberation and wanted to have another meeting.
- d) After further discussion, it was decided that the efficient and accurate method would be for Roberta to take the CRC's 5/31/17 version of the proposed new charter document, incorporate the changes agreed to at the 5/31/17 meeting as well as 7/25/17 updates then incorporate the changes documented in the BoS draft 7/26/17 minutes highlighting the BoS proposed changes.

**Next Steps:**

- a) Roberta to contact the BOS as to our decision.
- b) Roberta to schedule another meeting.

**Adjourn:** KG moved, Steve seconded, motion passed 5-0-0 to adjourn at 9:17pm.

Respectfully submitted by,  
Alexis Christopher

Documents referenced during the meeting and in these minutes:

- a) Open Meeting Law Complaint dated 12/11/17 filed by Steve Morgan regarding an email communication dated 11/11/17.
- b) Draft response to Open Meeting Law Complaint dated 12/11/17 filed by Steve Morgan dated January 12, 2018.
- c) Draft Charter Review Committee Minutes, dated December 4, 2017
- d) Draft Board of Selectmen Minutes, dated July 26, 2017
- e) Ashland Town Charter with Notes for 2016/2017 Recommendations; FINAL TO BOARD OF SELECTMEN - 5/31/2017;
- f) Ashland Town Charter with Notes for 2016/2017 Recommendations; FINAL TO BOARD OF SELECTMEN - 5/31/2017; CORRECTED 7/25/17

g) Ashland Town Charter with Notes for 2016/2017 Recommendations; FINAL TO BOARD OF SELECTMEN – 5/31/2017; CORRECTED 7/25/17; BOS AMENDMENTS 7/26/17.

*Please note: these minutes are a representation of the action and discussion at the Charter Review Committee meeting and are not a verbatim transcript.*