

DRAFT DRAFT DRAFT Town of Bar Harbor Charter Comm. Minutes, 27 January 2020

The meeting of the Commission was called to order at 8.30 AM by Chair Michael Gurtler. All members were present: Joseph Cough, Julie Berberian, Anna Durand, Jill Goldthwait, Michael Gurtler, Peter St. Germain, Patricia Samuel, Martha Searchfield, Christopher Strout.

1. The agenda was amended (J. Cough, P. St.Germain) to add the report of e-mail from the Town Attorney to Item 4. The motion passed unanimously and the agenda was approved.

2. The minutes of the Jan. 21, 2020 meeting were approved unanimously (P. St. Germain, J. Cough) with one addition (identity of the Bar Harbor resident who wrote directly to the Town Attorney).

3. Public Comment period: None of the attendees wished to speak.

4. Items for discussion:

a. E-mail from the Town Attorney, responding to the Commission's request for confirmation that it is legal to divide the proposed revisions to the Town Charter into several Questions to the voters: The Town Attorney reaffirmed, in a memo to Chair Michael Gurtler, that it is legal to present proposed Town Charter changes to the voters in several questions on the Warrant, to be voted separately.

b. Warrant question #1 and associated Charter changes:

- observation that moving the statement of the size of the Warrant Committee from Question #7 to Question #1 causes contradictions; It was moved and seconded (C. Strout, P. St.Germain) to move this item back to Question 7.

Discussion: how to avoid returning to the old method of nominating and electing Warrant Com. members?; Old "A" doesn't fit in with the proposed new election method. Call for the question: 8 "Yeas," 1 "Nay" (J. Cough); motion passed.

- new topic, return to Question 1: remove item 3 in the statement of the question; much discussion of Question 7 and Question 1; comment: many voters don't understand the difference between the Warrant and the Ballot; observation: if Question 9 doesn't pass, then what?

- It was moved and seconded (P. St.Germain, J. Goldthwait) to adopt the rationale for Question 1 as revised; motion carried unanimously.

- It was moved and seconded (P. St.Germain, C. Strout) to adopt the language of Question 1 as revised; motion carried 7 "Yeas," 2 "Nays" (J. Berberian, A. Durand)

- It was moved and seconded (P. St.Germain, C. Strout) to adopt Question 7. Motion passed, 8 "Yeas," 1 "Nay" (J. Berberian).

- new topic, Question 9, discussion: regarding a moderated public hearing, who moderates? should the moderator be specified?

- remove the term, "moderated", if we don't trust Town Council; suggestion, remove "moderated" from the rationale; question: should "moderated" be added to the Charter language? No member wanted to add this term to the Charter language.

- new topic, Question 4: It was moved and seconded (P. St.Germain, J. Cough) to adopt the revised rationale for Question 4; motion passed unanimously.

- new topic, Question 6: It was moved and seconded (J. Cough, P. St.Germain) to change the Question 6 rationale; motion passed unanimously.

#### 5. Meeting schedule and report timeline:

- The Chair requested the revised minority report.

- The Chair will wait for the Town Attorney's report before submitting the Charter Commission's report to the town Council.

#### 6. Other business:

- The Chair thanked the members of the Commission, whom he respects; he learned much, and is a better person for it.

- Question from M. Searchfield and P. Samuel about planning for the voter information and listening sessions. The Chair stated that he would send e-mail to us.

7. Motion to adjourn was offered by J. Cough and P. St.Germain; passed unanimously; meeting adjourned at 9.32 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia L. Samuel, Secretary