



Charter Commission

Administration Building
149 Main Street
Watertown, MA 02472
Phone: 617-972-6470

Commissioners:

Mark S. Sideris,
Chair

Stephen P. Corbett
Michael Donham
John A. Donohue
Dennis J. Duff
Susan G. Falkoff
Anthony Palomba
Rhiana Kohl
Angeline B. Kounelis
John J. Lawn, Jr.
Cecilia Lenk
Pamela Piantedosi
Vincent J. Piccirilli, Jr.
David Siegel
Athelia Tilson

ADOPTED MINUTES CHARTER COMMISSION MEETING TUESDAY, APRIL 6, 2010 7:00 PM RICHARD E. MASTRANGELO CHAMBER ADMINISTRATION BUILDING

- 1. ROLL CALL:** The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. Present for the meeting were Charter Commissioners: Michael Donham, John A. Donohue, Dennis Duff, Susan G. Falkoff, Rhiana Kohl, Angeline B. Kounelis, Cecilia Lenk, Pamela Piantedosi, Vincent J. Piccirilli Jr., David Siegel, Athelia Tilson and Mark Sideris, Chair. Commissioner Palomba arrived shortly after the call of the roll. Commissioners Corbett and Lawn were absent. Also present was Valerie Papas, Clerk.
- 2. ADOPTION OF MINUTES:** [March 16th](#). Commissioner Donohue moved the minutes, seconded by Commissioner Duff and adopted by voice vote.
- 3. MATTERS OF BUSINESS:**
 - a) There was a brief discussion on having Attorney Reich attend the meetings. It was decided that an agenda will be drafted in advance of the meeting and that the Chair will request Attorney Reich to attend based on agenda items to be discussed.
 - b) There was a lengthy discussion on a [one-page informational flyer](#) that will be disseminated to the public explaining the charge of the Commission. Commissioner Palomba will revise the one-pager; Commissioner Kohl will add graphics and each Commissioner will prepare a list of organizations they would like to be included in the distribution process. Commissioners Lenk and Donohue will be responsible for setting up a web page with contact information. All information, correspondence, etc will include the town seal.

The Chair opened up the discussion to the public and recognized:

Burt Greenberg, Duff Street – stated that the current form of government works and that he is looking for the Commission to tweak the current form of government, not overhaul or revamp it.

Clyde Younger, 188 Acton Street – asked that name plates be prominently displayed before each commissioner. He stated that Attorney Hyland had a different interpretation of the Charter Commission’s charge and duties as having more authority to make changes.

- c) There was a brief discussion on how the commission would like to be addressed by each other and members of the public. Commissioner Donham moved to address each member as “commissioner”, seconded by Commissioner Donohue and adopted by voice vote with Commissioner Kounelis voting no. It was noted by Commissioner Kounelis that 6 of the members were appointed by the Chair and not elected by the people.
- d) An [email and an opinion](#) by Attorney Reich regarding the process for amending the Charter was discussed. Commissioner Donham stated that the Charter can be revised but not amended. Commissioner Piccirilli concurred and noted that this Commission is bound by the Charter and can only make minor changes as this Commission is an appointed body and not elected by the people. Commissioner Piantedosi stated that the email was difficult to understand and that she would like clarification from Attorney Reich.
- e) The Chair began discussion on the Charter starting with the preface. It was decided that an introduction to the Charter explaining how the town came to be known as the “City known as the town of Watertown” will be placed in the preface.

- 4. ADJOURNMENT:** The Chair announced the 9:00 pm adjournment time. He noted that at the next meeting the Commission will finalize the one-page flyer; discuss an reach-out process; decide on a date to have the Mass Municipal Association make a presentation and discuss in further detail an email forwarded by Attorney Reich. It was noted by the Chair that he will request the presence of Attorney Reich to attend the next scheduled meeting. Commissioner Duff moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Commissioner Piantedosi and adopted by voice vote.

For a complete transcript of the meeting, a DVD is available upon request.