

CHARTER REVIEW COMMITTEE

FINAL DRAFT MINUTES
March 21, 2022
Skaket Meeting Room, Orleans Town Hall
and via Zoom

Principal
ORLEANS TOWN CLERK
Juanita Ferguson
77 APR 13 8:46AM

Date approved:
4/4/22
SMR

The meeting of March 21, 2022 was called to order at 5:30 pm by Jon Fuller, Chair. Present at Town Hall were Mr. Fuller, Patricia Fallender, Robin Hubbard and Maxine Minkoff. Gail Meyers Lavin and Mark Berson were present via Zoom. All confirmed attendance by roll call. Walter North joined the meeting after the Minutes were approved (5:32 pm). Meff Runyon, Select Board Liaison, was not in attendance. This meeting was convened at Town Hall, with remote participation, real time public access in person and provided by Channel 18 on the town website and cable television.

The Minutes of March 7, 2022 were moved by Mark Berson, seconded by Patricia Fallender and unanimously voted as revised by roll call 6-0-0.

Public Comment: None

Tracking sheet: None

Resource Page: Ms Lavin reviewed the CRC analytics from December 1, 2021 to March 1, 2022, mentioned at the last meeting, noting 378 page views from 242 different viewers and a 1.46 - minute average view, again reporting that there had been a large spike around Feb 11, 2022, the Public Hearing date, and mentioning higher views throughout February both before and after the hearing.

Discussion of Input after Public Hearing: Mr Fuller referred again to Ginny Farber's letter with three issues – one to review the self-imposed term limit requirement that some have, one to enforce attendance requirements, and the last to direct the Planning Board to work with other committees mentioned in the Charter. Ms Fallender and he said that the first two were policy issues that would be more appropriately brought up with the Select Board. Ms Fallender said that the third could be another Charter "consistency" amendment since Section 9-1-4 already stated that "The Planning Board shall cooperate closely with the Conservation Commission, and the Board of Health, and the Board of Water and Sewer Commissioners," but it was not mentioned in Chapter 6 – and could be inserted as 6-6-2 in the Planning Board section. She added that the Board of Health in Section 5-7-2 stated that "The Board of Health shall cooperate closely with the Conservation Commission and the Planning Board. Robin Hubbard said that this would be reviewed as part of her and Walter North's reviews of Chapter 5 and 6.

Review of final changes to CRC Articles for May Town Meeting:

Ms Fallender referred to the first draft of the Warrant and noted that the Charter articles do not begin until Page 69. She suggested that a letter be written to request that the Articles be placed nearer the beginning of the Warrant. After members discussed the need to send requests back to the Assistant Town Administrator as soon as possible, Mr Fuller agreed to formally write one based on the vote of a motion: **It was moved by Ms Fallender, seconded by Ms Lavin that the rationale include that: The Charter is a foundational document which affects the entire operation of every aspect of the community's government; it is only reviewed in detail every 7 years; and it is important to have as many people as possible present to hear these Articles designed to address the fundamental architecture of our Town Meeting democracy and the operation of the Town. Therefore, the CRC believes it would be important to have the Articles earlier in the meeting, as close to the universal pre-school vote as possible after the CPC articles to capture those who might have to leave and those it will most affect. The motion was voted unanimously by roll call 7-0-0.**

7 a. Possible amendments

- 1. Section 4 – Warrants:** Maxine Minkoff questioned the Summary language because it did not state where residents without access to the Town website could find the Warrant. The following wording was agreed:

"This amendment would add the use of phrases "at least" and "no less than" to allow for a more appropriate timeline for the opening and closing of the Warrant. Adding the words "on the Town website"

facilitates the dissemination of the Warrant to Town residents. Those residents without access to the website will be able to learn from news outlets where printed copies of the Warrant are available. Reducing the number of printed Warrants and the expense of including them in every newspaper will lower the Town's carbon footprint."

2. **Quorum:** Walter North noted that after mulling over his concerns about the summary, he wanted to suggest that it should avoid the term "zero quorum" because it was impossible to have a meeting with zero people present. The following wording was agreed:

"Once the Moderator declares a quorum of 100 at an Annual or Special Town Meeting and calls the Meeting to order, there shall be no challenge to the quorum. This change eliminates the risk that if Town Meeting is unable to complete all actions due to lack of a quorum, all matters previously voted would need to be prepared in a new Warrant, presented at a new Town Meeting, and voted again. This article will ensure that voters remaining at the meeting can complete Town Meeting business in a timely manner. Therefore, it is less likely to require more than one session, which would incur additional expense."

After discussion of both summaries, Ms Lavin moved, Ms Hubbard seconded, and it was voted unanimously to change the language of the two summaries above by roll call 7-0-0.

7 b. Review of Potential Articles not presented in first round:

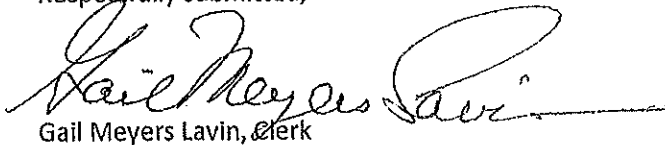
1. Code of Conduct
2. Emergency Plan
3. Town Moderator – appoint neutral moderator
4. Town Manager job description
5. Move sections of Chapter 10 to Chapter 1
6. Review of Finance Committee letter

Future Agenda Items:

April 4:	Mr North:	Review of Chapter V
	Ms Hubbard:	Begin Review of Chapter VI
May 2:		Last minute changes to Town Meeting presentation
	Ms Hubbard:	Continue Review of Chapter VI
	Ms Lavin:	Begin Review of Chapter VII
May 9:		Annual Town Meeting
May 16:	Ms Lavin:	Continue Review of Chapter VII
	Ms Minkoff:	Begin Review of Chapter IX
June 6:	Ms Minkoff:	Continue Review of Chapter IX
June 20:		NO MEETING
June 27:		Meeting in place of Juneteenth

It was moved by Ms Minkoff, seconded by Ms Hubbard and voted unanimously by roll call 7-0-0 to adjourn the meeting at 6:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,


Gail Meyers Lavin, Clerk

The next CRC Meeting will be held in the Nauset Room as a hybrid meeting (via Zoom) on MONDAY, April 4, 2022 at 5:30 pm.