

**Charter Review Committee June 30, 2020
Meeting Minutes**

Members present: Larry Levine, Phil Adams, William Fonseca, Ralph Page, Jeff Bosworth, Tom Christensen, Andy Fraser, Marilyn Richards (alternate), Jeannie Quaglietti (non-voting), and Kathleen Hill (ex-officio, non-voting)

The meeting was held by virtual participation (Zoom webinar) and was called to order by Chairman Larry Levine at 5:00pm. It was noted that this meeting was being videotaped by ELCAT and that there were no audience members audiotaping.

The minutes of June 23, 2020 were approved as written. Motion to approve by Bill, seconded by Jeff, and followed by a Roll Call vote: Larry – YES, Phil – YES, Bill – YES, Ralph – YES, Jeff – YES, Tom – YES, and Andy – YES.

A brief discussion followed regarding the wording of a proposed email address for public comment. Andy motioned with a second from Ralph to adopt the wording, charterreview@eastlongmeadowma.gov, followed by a Roll Call vote: Larry – YES, Phil – YES, Bill – YES, Ralph – YES, Jeff – YES, Tom – YES, and Andy – YES.

Jeanne Quaglietti, Town Clerk, will submit a news release to the Reminder regarding Charter Review, to include the email address of the Charter Review Committee as well as the mailing address for the Town Clerk, in order for residents to submit any proposed suggestions. She will also put this information on Facebook and the Town Home page of the Town's web site.

Chairman Larry initiated review of the Charter by the reading of each section and line in order to edit accordingly. Larry will document the proposed changes to the Charter within a draft document for future review. To date, the committee is in receipt of suggestions from Tom O'Connor and Pat Henry.

PREAMBLE to the Charter: No suggested changes.

ARTICLE 1: Section 1. Incorporation: It was confirmed that East Longmeadow is considered a Town, as we do not have Wards, even though our form of government is considered a City form of government. Ralph, as a former Charter Commission member, added that a goal was to maintain the character of a Town and that the Town has bylaws and not ordinances, which are more reflective of a City.

Section 2. Short Title: No suggested changes.

Section 3. Division of Powers: Ralph suggested there might be future modifications to the Town Manager role, which might trigger some modifications to this section going forward.

Section 4. Powers of the Town: First letter in Charter, uppercase C.

Section 5. Construction: First letters in Charter and Town, uppercase C and T. .

Section 6. Intergovernmental Relations: No suggested changes.

Section 7. Definitions:

- Charter – First letter in Charter, uppercase C.
- Emergency – Appears to not conflict with the Open Meeting Law definition that is referenced in Article 2, Section 4 of the Charter. No suggested changes.
- Full Council – definition pending further discussion throughout this review, as to application and usage of a “full council”.
- general laws - (all lower case letters) references laws specific to East Longmeadow. Words suggested to be added with placement after the word member – and also it should be applicable individually to the

Town of East Longmeadow. Motion made by Phil, second by Tom to add this wording, followed by a Roll Call vote: Larry – YES, Phil – YES, Bill – YES, Ralph – YES, Jeff – YES, Tom – YES, and Andy – YES.

- General Laws – No suggested changes.
- Initiative Petition – No suggested changes.
- Law – No suggested changes.
- Local Newspaper – definition pending as to how this appears in the Charter and for what purpose, moving forward.
- Majority Vote – First letter in Charter, uppercase C.
- Measure – No suggested changes.
- Multiple Member Body – No suggested changes.
- Organization or Reorganization Plan – No suggested changes.
- Quorum – No suggested changes.
- Referendum Measure – to add the words...or School Committee after Town Council. Also, first letter in Charter, uppercase C.
- Super Majority – suggested additions are to change ...or to of... before the words Town Council, place a comma after Town Council, and add the words or School Committee at the end. Motion made by Ralph to add comma after Town Council and the words School Committee at the end, second by Jeff, followed by a Roll Call vote: Larry – YES, Phil – YES, Bill – YES, Ralph – YES, Jeff – YES, Tom – YES, and Andy – YES.

The next meeting of the Charter Review Committee via ZOOM webinar is scheduled for July 7, 2020 at 4:30 PM.

Bill made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Jeff and followed by a Roll Call vote: Larry – YES, Phil – YES, Bill – YES, Ralph – YES, Jeff – YES, Tom – YES, and Andy – YES. The meeting adjourned at 5:57pm

Respectfully submitted,
Marilyn M. Richards (alternate member)
Recording clerk