

**MINUTES
CHARTER COMMISSION FOR THE TOWN OF HARWICH
Harwich Channel Studio, Community Center, 100 Oak Street, Harwich MA
November 13, 2025 - 6:30 pm**

MEMBERS PARTICIPATING: Linda Cebula, Chair, Sandra Hall, Vice Chair, Jon Chorey, Treasurer, Herb Bell, Paul Doane, Richard Waystack, Lou Urbano and Brendan Lowney

MEMBERS NOT PARTICIPATING: Judith Underwood

1. Call to order

Ms. Cebula called the meeting of the Charter Commission for Harwich to order on November 13, 2025 at 6:30PM. The Chair declared a quorum and noted that Ms. Underwood would not be attending. Mr. Lowney, who has been sworn in and is a full member of the Committee, would be arriving late.

2. Approval of regular minutes for November 6, 2025

Mr. Bell moved to accept the regular minutes for November 6, 2025. Seconded by Mr. Waystack.

Vote: 7:0 in favor. Motion carried.

Ms. Cebula reminded members of the meeting scheduled for November 20th and that the Water/Wastewater people will be attending. The December 4th meeting will be on, Chapter 7, the appointed agencies. For the December 11th meeting, the Collins Group will be sending information regarding compliance. By December 18th, Ms. Cebula is hoping to take some votes to allow the Collins Group to start on language. No meetings on December 25th or January 1st.

3. Continuing Business

Discussion and possible vote on charter topics

Recall provisions

Ms. Cebula distributed information regarding Chapter 8, noting what is included.

Mr. Doane explained information on the sheet that he had submitted regarding other towns, noting that Pembroke was in the same category as Harwich. He noted changes Pembroke made to their Charter including the number of people required to trigger the recall process as well as the process to recall. Mr. Doane also noted examples of eligible reasons for recall as well as other provisions regarding an individual who has been recalled.

Mr. Lowney joined the meeting at approximately 6:37PM.

Ms. Cebula went through Chapter 8 and the Harwich provisions one at a time, asking for feedback on suggested changes. Members agreed on: 10% of qualified voters, 60 calendar days for someone to collect the 10% of signatures, the Town Clerk has 14 calendar days after receipt of petition to certify the names, the Select Board shall “within 14 calendar days”, the number of days from when the names on the petition are certified through the process is 64 calendar days, anyone who wants to run for office has to get their 50 signatures, leaving the provision that a person who is being recalled are automatically put on the ballot, striking the sentence regarding 25% of voters and the recall, not advocating for not allowing someone to run for one or two years.

Ms. Cebula referred to 8.51 asking if there should be provisions as to why someone should be recalled.

Members discussed the reasons for someone to be recalled and whether or not they should be listed. It was decided that no reasons would be listed.

Chapter 6 Elected officers and town agencies

Ms. Cebula noted which officers are elected and asked for suggestions of additions or changes. Members discussed whether or not the Town Clerk should be elected. Members decided not to make any changes on that subject. Ms. Cebula asked who members would propose, should be put on as elected. Members discussed different scenarios with commissions, boards and committees regarding being elected versus being appointed.

Ms. Cebula suggested that they will continued a brief discussion next week on the elected. She asked members to send their suggestions to her via email.

4. Any other topic that may come before the Commission
5. Public comments
6. Adjourn

Mr. Waystack moved to adjourn. Seconded by Mr. Chorey.

Vote: 8:0 in favor Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:55PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Judi Moldstad
Board Secretary

Approved 11 20 2025

November 13, 2025