

MINUTES
CHARTER COMMISSION FOR TOWN of HARWICH
Community Center Oak Street Harwich MA 02645
July 10, 2025 6.30 pm

Members participating: Linda Cebula, Chair, Sandra Hall, Vice Chair, Toni London, Clerk, Jon Chorey, Treasurer, Herbert Bell, Richard Waystack, Louis Urbano, Judith Underwood and Paul Doane

1 Call to order

Linda Cebula called the meeting of the Charter Commission to order on July 10, 2025 at 6:30PM and noted that all members were present.

2 Approval of regular minutes for July 1, 2025

Sandra Hall moved to approve the Minutes regular meeting Minutes of July 1, 2025 with two corrections: Sandy Daniels be corrected to Sandy Hall and edit to the correct spelling of Judith Moldstad's name. Seconded by Richard Waystack as amended.

Vote: 9:0 in favor. Motion carried unanimously..

3 Continuing Business

Discussion and possible votes Status on recording secretary

Sandy Hall gave an update on the status of having Judi Moldstad be the Board Secretary. Members discussed the format for the Minutes and the payroll procedure.

Lou Urbano moved to authorize Jon Chorey to sign Judi Moldstad's pay slips. Seconded by Herb Bell. Vote: 9:0 in favor. Motion carried unanimously.

Status on search for consultant

Paul Doane reported on the results of his research noting that he had a conversation with Bernie Lynch and that he had recommended the Collins Group. He also suggested hiring an independent consultant. Members offered their opinions, preferences, made suggestions and discussed options.

Linda Cebula listed the required qualifications, what the interested party's proposal should include and suggested the hiring and interview process.

Discussion continued on options, modifying the letter with specific suggestions and sending the letter to the Groups and individuals for their responses.

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Richard Waystack moved to send the letter out to the parties that the members discussed, MRI, Collins Center, Charlie Sumner, Bill Henchy and Rick White. Seconded by Paul Doane.

After discussion, the motion was amended to include additional people.

Vote: 9:0 in favor. Motion carried unanimously.

Linda Cebula asked that Paul Doane send the contact information to her via email. She will send the letters out as quickly as possible.

Possible request to town agencies for thoughts on Charter

Members discussed a deadline for the requested information and agreed, by consensus, on September 8, 2025. Also discussed was the wording within the request and to whom the letter is being addressed. It was decided that the letter will be addressed to the Select Board, Chairs of Boards, Committees and Commissions and include the Charter Commission's contact information. The decision was also made to not include the departments at this time.

4 Discussion on current Harwich Charter
Form of Government topics

Linda Cebula listed the current Forms of Government as well as other options such as the Connecticut model. Also discussed were the titles Town Administrator and Town Manager, Select Board members selected by precinct or district and full time versus part time. Discussion continued regarding the pros and cons of extending the number of Select Board members and possible changes to the election process or continuing with an open Town Meeting. The consensus of the Commission was to continue with an open Town Meeting, maintain a part time Select Board and increase the number of Select Board members to seven. Judith Underwood suggested involving high school students in projects as part of community involvement and volunteered to speak with the Monomoy School District.

Linda Cebula noted that a form of government is a Charter compliance. Discussion followed regarding an enforcement mechanism and possible options. The compliance issue and discussion will be continued and on next week's agenda. Members who are unable to attend were asked to email what they envision as a compliance function and how it would work.

- 5 Any other topic that may come before the Commission none
- 6 Public comments none
- 7 Adjourn

Richard Waystack moved to adjourn. Seconded by Judith Underwood.
Vote: 9:0 in favor. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted, Judi Moldstad Board Secretary

Approved _____ 07 17 2025 _____

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