MINUTES
CHARTER COMMISSION FOR THE TOWN OF HARWICH
Community Center Oak Street Harwich MA
Thursday, September 18, 2025 - 6.30 pm

MEMBERS PARTICIPATING: Sandra Hall, Vice Chair, Jon Chorey, Herb Bell, Richard Waystack and Louis Urbano

MEMBERS NOT PARTICIPATING: Linda Cebula, Judith Underwood, Paul Doane and Toni London

1 Call to order

Ms. Hall called the meeting of the Harwich Charter Commission to order on Thursday, September 18, 2025 at 6:39PM. The Chair declared a quorum.

2 Approval of regular minutes for September 11,2025

Mr. Waystack moved to approve the minutes for September 11, 2025. Seconded by Mr. Urbano.

Vote: 5:0 in favor. Motion carried.

3 Continuing Business Discussion and possible votes
Responses from town agencies for thoughts on Charter

Ms. Hall noted that no responses have been received.

4 Discussion on current Harwich Charter, including
Chapter 4 Town Administrator authority as relates to Chapter 3 Select Board
And other related provisions

Commission members discussed the previous meeting and the discussion with the Interim Town Administrator, commenting on the points they agreed with and how those suggestions could be incorporated into the Charter. They highlighted issues such as which positions should be hired by the Town Administrator, having a strong Police and Fire Chief as well as the importance of the Finance Director's roll and working relationship with the Town Administrator. Also discussed were other responsibilities of the Select Board versus the Town Administrator and how those could be changed to benefit both.

Members discussed communications with the public, the possibilities of doing a survey and public forum, having a work session and sharing ideas and questions prior to the meeting with the Collins Group. Also discussed was inviting some members of the Select Board to attend a

Charter Commission meeting after Commission members have come to some consensus on various issues.

Commission members discussed the Charter, Section 3 and all subsections. They made suggestions on possible ways to vote in Select Board members. Also discussed were the issue or replacing committee and/or members when there is a sudden vacancy. Commission members discussed current wording in the Charter and the issue of compliance. Noted were questions to ask the Collins Group representative.

Ms. Hall stated that she would do the rewriting of Section 3-2 and share the language with the Commission members.

5 Any other topic that may come before the Commission

6 Public comments

7 Adjourn

Mr. Waystack moved to adjourn. Seconded.

Vote: 5:0 in favor. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Judi Moldstad
Board Secretary approved 09 25 2025