

Jan 22, 2025 | Town Council Study Committee Meeting Minutes

Location: 131 Pleasant Street (Room A)

Attendees: Beau Barber, Curtis Barnes, Caroline Baltzer, Jeff Carlson, Joe Grause, Rachel Mandle, Jill Vieth, Donna Martino, Kelly Steffen

Collins Center: Anthony Wilson, Melvin Kleckner, Patricia Lloyd

00:58: Agenda accepted by majority voice vote

01:35: 11/4 meeting minutes accepted by majority voice vote

01:40 Joe: two sections to deal with

1. Clean up already covered draft charter sections
2. Collins Center to present additional draft charter sections

02:46: No changes to *PREAMBLE* or *ARTICLE 1 INCORPORATION; SHORT TITLE; DEFINITIONS*.

03:40: No changes to *ARTICLE 2 TOWN COUNCIL Section 2-1. Composition and Membership*. Town council would be 9 members with rolling 3 year terms, transition issues to be dealt with in Transition Section.

08:44: No changes to *Section 2-2. Eligibility*.

11:13 Pat: from Collins Center clarifies that a “council clerk” in *Section 2-3. (g)* is would be a separate position from the town clerk.

13:25: No changes to *Section 2-5. Council Procedures* & *Section 2-6. General Powers and Duties* but for *Section 2-6.(f)* of which language about school committee needs further feedback.

16:35: No changes to *Section 2-7. Town Ordinances*, *Section 2-8. Vacancy*, *Section 2-9. Access to Information* and *Section 2-10. Prohibitions*.

18:00: No changes to *ARTICLE 3 EXECUTIVE BRANCH Section 3-1. Role of the Town Manager*, *Section 3-2. Appointment and Qualifications* and *Section 3-3. Executive and Administrative Powers and Duties*.

24:00: No changes to *Section 3-4. Temporary Absence or Vacancy in the Office of Town Manager* Mel and Pat emphasize that the language gives the town manager the discretion to appoint another Town Executive as a substitute during absences.

26:00: No changes to *Section 3.5. Suspension or Removal of Town Manager*.

26:13: No changes to *ARTICLE 4 OTHER ELECTED OFFICIALS Section 4-1. Elected Offices in General*.

Collins Center noted that all commissions and committees described in the draft charter conform to current Nantucket operations. Jeff adds that Harbor & Shellfish becomes an advisory board because not enough candidates have run to fill all the seats.

28:00 Mel: Planning Board will be addressed in the transition section.

29:50: No changes to *Section 4.2. School Committee*, *Section 4.2 Town Clerk*, *Section 4.3 Historic District Commission*, *Section 4.4. Nantucket Housing Authority*, *Section 4.5 Nantucket Land Bank Commission*, *Section 4.5 Nantucket Land Bank Commission*, *Section 4.7. Community Preservation Committee* and *Section 4.8 Board of Water Commissioners*.

33:00: No changes to *ARTICLE 5 ADMINISTRATIVE ORGANIZATION*. Joe will check with Libby to see if

there are any other independent or special positions that need to be incorporated..

53:43 Mel: presents *ARTICLE 6 FINANCIAL AND FISCAL PROCEDURES* Key difference is that, in this form of government, there is no finance committee, as it is a feature of open Town Meeting. Certain other committees, for example the Capital Program Committee and the Audit Committee can be established by the new Town Council. It was noted that in the budgeting process, State law does not allow the Town Council to increase budgeted expenses.

57:50: Group consensus is to write a provision to let a town council make these decisions, possibly with some recommendations; this will be addressed in the transition section.

1:10:00: *ARTICLE 6 FINANCIAL AND FISCAL PROCEDURES* to be added to draft charter.

1:12:22: Group consensus to use the word "bylaw" in the draft charter.

1:12:23 Anthony: presents *ARTICLE 7 ELECTIONS*.

1:15:00: Group consensus to not define and devote a section to preliminary elections.

1:29:00: Group consensus that elections happen after the **town council adopts the annual budget**; the current language in the draft charter is "second Tuesday in June..."

*Additional information since the 1/22 meeting was received from Nancy Holmes

1:30:00 Anthony: presents *SECTION 7-1 TOWN ELECTIONS*, *SECTION 7-2 BALLOT POSITION*, *SECTION 7-3 NON-PARTISAN ELECTIONS* and *SECTION 7-4 SIGNATURE REQUIREMENTS*.

1:37:20: Group approves draft language for all sections, and Joe will contact Nancy Holmes for feedback on *SECTION 7-4 SIGNATURE REQUIREMENTS*.

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1:41:30 Anthony: to modify *SECTION 7-5 PRECINCTS* to include Nantucket's exemption of precincts.

1:44:30 Joe: all that is remaining is the transition section, discussion and decisions on compensation, final review and the county charter.

1:45:40: Motion to adjourn accepted by majority voice vote.