

Some points for discussion for the next Charter Revision Commission meeting on January 31, 2018.

- Abhijit Bhattacharyya

Section 1.2 Form of Government.

The town shall have a "council-manager" form of government.

Question/suggestion/comment: perhaps clarify as follows *"The town shall have a "council-manager" form of government consisting of elected town officials listed in Article II and the town manager"* (helps in cross-referencing within the document).

Section 1.3 Corporate Boundary.

Question/suggestion/comment: Have there been any changes to the map since the last revision (such as new/alterd roads etc.)

Section 1.4 Powers.

(B) The only limitation concerning alienability of town owned property is that there shall be no sale, exchange or lease in excess of five (5) years of any park property while it is being used for public purpose unless such sale, exchange or lease is approved by a majority vote at the next regularly scheduled election of the voters of the town. This provision shall not apply to any valid written contractual obligations entered into prior to the effective incorporation date of this town nor shall it apply to any town owned educational facility, library property or parking facility not located in a park or any utility or access easements or right-of-way. This provision is intended to restrict sales, exchanges or leases and shall not be applicable to any operating, management or other agreements.

Question/suggestion/comment: Is there a publicly available list of these public properties that is maintained by the town and if so, could that be mentioned here so that the town residents can refer to it.

Section 2.2 Town Council.

(A) Powers.

There shall be a town council (the "council ") vested with all legislative powers of the town. The council shall consist of the mayor, vice-mayor, and three residential council members ("council members").

Question/suggestion/comment: Could we further define the role of the council member in a manner similar to that done for the mayor in Section 2.1A.

Section 2.2 Town Council.

(A) Powers.

.....The council may create and appoint committees of the council, which may include non-council members.

Question/suggestion/comment: Can a council member be a member of a committee for which s/he is not a liaison for the town council; if not could that be clarified here.

Section 2.3 Election, Term of Office and Term Limits.

(C) Residential Areas. Seats 1-3. The town shall be divided into three residential areas.

Question/suggestion/comment: Wondering if we can re-think the term 'residential area' as perhaps a 'zone' or similar term, or further define 'residential area' to include the businesses and other entities in that area (this would help further clarify the responsibilities of the council member for that area).

Section 2.6 Compensation; Reimbursement for Expenses.

District council members and the vice-mayor

Question/suggestion/comment: Can we drop the word 'District' or replace it with 'Town'.

Section 2.6 Compensation; Reimbursement for Expenses.

.....CPI annually.

Question/suggestion/comment: considering using '.....Consumer Price Index annually' since there is no Glossary of Terms in the Appendices (or perhaps we should consider having a glossary to define terms?)

Section 3.3 Powers and Duties of the Town Manager.

The town manager shall:

.....

(4) Ensure that all laws, provisions of this charter and directives of the council, subject to enforcement and/or administration by him/her or by employees subject to his/her direction and supervision, are faithfully executed;

Question/suggestion/comment: for clarity I am thinking “Ensure that all laws, provisions of this charter and directives of the council, subject to enforcement and/or administration by him/her or by employees subject to his/her direction and supervision, are faithfully executed; *and in matters requiring legal advice/intervention, defer such matters to the town attorney.*”

Section 3.12 Grants

.....All grants are to be approved by the town manager.....

Question/suggestion/comment: perhaps reword as: “.....All *grant applications* are to be approved by the town manager.....”

Section 3.13 Ordinance on Sexual Predators

Question/suggestion/comment: Wondering why this section is here and not in Article IV. Perhaps it should be moved?