

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING of the Burrillville Charter Review Commission held Wednesday, January 12, 2022 at 7:00 P.M. in the Community Room, Jesse M. Smith Memorial Library, 100 Tinkham Lane, Harrisville, RI.

This meeting was held in accordance with the provisions of the Governor's Executive Order 22-01. Members of the Burrillville Charter Review Commission participated in person and remotely via Zoom. Members of the public were invited to listen and/or participate in the meeting, as required, by the means listed on the posted agenda.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Arthur Bonin, Michael Lamoureux, David Landry, Richard Nolan, Adam Schatz, John Westhoven and Anthony Zampello. Alfred Bettencourt Jr. joined remotely

MEMBERS ABSENT: William Woodruff was excused.

1. VOTED to accept the minutes of the regular meeting held December 28, 2021; and the question of dispensing with the reading of said minutes.

Motion by Anthony Zampello, second by Arthur Bonin. The motion carried unanimously by the seven members present.

2. **Public comment:** None

3. **Unfinished Business to be considered and acted on:**

CR21-018 Review of submissions continued from previous meeting.

Paul Roselli, Chair of the Burrillville Land Trust, discussed his submissions and his intention to include land preservation in certain sections of the Charter.

The Commission discussed each request individually. They agreed that many of the proposed amendments refer to Rhode Island General Laws and adding them to the Charter would be redundant.

#19 Section 19.5.04 Adding new sub-section Powers and Duties of Town Manager- to define responsibilities

VOTED to reject.

Motion by Adam Schatz, second by John Westhoven. The motion carried unanimously by the seven members present.

#20 Section 8.09 Adding new sub-section- Duties

VOTED to reject.

Motion by Anthony Zampello, second by David Landry. The motion carried unanimously by the seven members present.

#21 Section 12.04 Add new language - Powers and duties

VOTED to postpone vote until the next meeting when we have a definition of "ecosystem services."

Motion by Richard Nolan, second by John Westhoven. The motion carried unanimously by the seven members present.

#22 Section 8.13 Add new language - Powers and duties

VOTED to deny.

Motion by David Landry, second by Arthur Bonin. The motion carried unanimously by the seven members present.

#23 Section 12.09 Add new language – Health Officer

VOTED to reject.

Motion by Adam Schatz, second by Anthony Zampello. The motion carried unanimously by the seven members present.

#24 Section 12.14 Add new subsection (H) - Health Officer -Duties and responsibilities

VOTED to get more information on Town Zoning and Subdivision plans.

Motion by David Landry, second by John Westhoven. The motion carried unanimously by the seven members present.

#25 Article I (No section noted) to add new section – Environment in general

VOTED to reject.

Motion by David Landry, second by Adam Schatz. The motion carried unanimously by the seven members present.

4. New Business to be considered and acted on:

CR21-019 Correspondence from Vicki Martin, Town Clerk, regarding her recommendation to amend the vote taken on November 23, 2021 to amend Section 3.06 – Town Council – Filling Vacancy.

VOTED to amend the vote taken on November 23, 2021 to amend Section 3.06 – Town Council – Filling Vacancy, as follows:

Section 3.06. - Filling Vacancy.

A vacancy on the Town Council shall be filled until the next general election by the qualified candidate for Town Council with the next highest vote total in the last general election. ~~If no qualified candidate is available, the Town Council shall appoint a qualified elector to fill the vacancy.~~ If no qualified candidate is available, the Town Council shall appoint a qualified elector to fill the vacancy until the next general election, as follows:

(A) The Town Council will turn the selection process over to the Screening Subcommittee of the Town Council. The Screening Subcommittee will provide for one advertisement for candidates, meet outside of normal planned meetings to consider the application of candidates and review candidates. The Screening Subcommittee will rank the candidates and submit the top five (5) ranked candidates to the Town Council for consideration.

(B) The candidates submitted to the Town Council shall have the opportunity to appear before the Town Council prior to the vote of the Town Council, to give all Town Council members a chance to speak with them and ask questions.

At the next general election, the voters shall elect a person to fill any unexpired term. The replacement candidate shall be sworn into office within thirty (30) days following the occurrence of the vacancy. ~~The voters will then elect a candidate to fill any unexpired term.~~

Motion by John Westhoven, second by Arthur Bonin. The motion carried unanimously by the seven members present.

CR21-020 VOTED to receive and file the legal opinion from William C. Dimitri, Town Solicitor, regarding Section 8.26 Office of Tax Collector - Powers and duties - Last sentence of the paragraph: "The Tax Collector shall hold a tax sale at intervals and shall include all real estate, the taxes on which are in the third year of delinquency."

Motion by Richard Nolan, second by Arthur Bonin. The motion carried unanimously by the seven members present.

CR21-021 Report of changes recommended by the Charter Review Commission thus far.

The Commission reviewed the report, noting that there were a couple omissions. There was no action taken on this item.


CR21-022 Continued review of the Charter.

The Commission did not have any more sections to review. No action was taken on this item.

5. Communications: None

VOTED to adjourn at 8:31 P.M.

Motion by Arthur Bonin, second by David Landry. The motion carried unanimously by the seven members present.



Richard Nolan, Secretary
Charter Review Commission

ATTEST: Denise H. Cournoyer
Denise Cournoyer, Administrative Assistant