

Longmeadow Charter Commission Minutes

DATE: October 1, 2003

TIME: 7:00pm. (Adjourned 9:50pm)

PLACE: School Committee Meeting Room.

This was the 13th meeting of the Longmeadow Charter Commission. Present: Kathleen E. Grady, R. Peter Landon, Roger F. Nadeau, Joseph A. Occhiuti, Rebecca M. Townsend (Clerk), Roger B. Wojcik (Chair). Absent: Susan R. Altman, William Hoff, and Arlene C. Miller (Vice Chair). Two (2) members of the public were present.

Mr. Wojcik opened the floor to public comment. Mr. Saul Finestone wished us luck.

1. Mr. Wojcik opened a review of minutes of 9-24-03. Ms. Grady requested that an action item for the retreat be included, for members to bring specific charter provision language with them to the retreat, so that we have examples of good language for specific items. Ms. Townsend asked whether names of towns or cities should be included in the list. She proposed a clarification, that "some of this information on certain provisions may be found in charters from the following towns". Mr. Occhiuti moved to accept minutes as amended. Ms. Grady seconded. Minutes were approved.
2. Mr. Wojcik introduced the evening's business. We would interview three candidates for a position as a charter advisor: Thomas Groux, Michael Curran, and Demetrios M. Moschos.
3. Commission members spoke with each advisor for 45 minutes. We asked questions about the following topics:
 - a. Our plan to have extended discussion meetings to deliberate and decide the shape of our charter.
 - b. Possibilities for including a preamble or mission statement that would serve as a guiding vision for Longmeadow's government
 - c. Options for structuring an integration of some town and school functions to achieve cooperation and clearer lines of accountability
 - d. Options for "customer service" or improved government-citizen service
 - e. Specific qualifications from each candidate
 - f. Candidates' opinions about how easy-to-read and understand the charter should be
 - g. Human Resources
 - h. Transitional provisions to ease the new government system into place
 - i. Level of charter detail of administrative organization
 - j. Fee schedule
 - Mr. Groux: \$95/hourplus travel expenses and legal review fees
 - Mr. Curran: \$20,000 flat fee
 - Mr. Moschos: \$300/hour (\$150 to have an associate draft a charter under his supervision)
4. At 9:22 members went into Executive Session to decide which candidate was the best fit for the task we needed to have performed. Pending completion of a mutually satisfactory contract, Mr. Thomas Groux was selected to be our charter advisor.

At 9:50, Mr. Occhiuti moved to adjourn. Mr. Landon seconded, and Mr. Wojcik adjourned the meeting.

Approved October 8, 2003
Respectfully submitted,
Rebecca M. Townsend, Clerk