

Longmeadow Charter Commission Minutes

DATE: May 29, 2003 TIME: 7:00pm. (Adjourned 8:30pm) PLACE: Fire Station Community Meeting Room. This was the first meeting of the Longmeadow Charter Commission. Present: Susan R. Altman, Kathleen E. Grady, R. Peter Landon, Arlene C. Miller, Roger F. Nadeau, Joseph A. Occhiuti, Rebecca M. Townsend, Roger B. Wojcik. Not Present: William Hoff

Donna Hunsinger, Assistant Town Clerk, administered the oath of office to the group.

Hal Haberman, Board of Selectmen, wished us well. He noted that the Board would work with us and would help us proceed smoothly.

Mr. Occhiuti wanted to hear introductions from fellow commissioners. Everyone gave a short speech about their interests in serving on the Committee.

Ms. Hunsinger opened nominations for Chair. Mr. Occhiuti nominated Mr. Wojcik (seconded). Mr. Landon nominated Ms. Miller (seconded).

The vote was 4-4. Ms. Hunsinger again opened up the floor, and the vote remained 4-4.

Ms. Hunsinger opened nominations for Vice-Chair. Ms. Altman nominated Mr. Landon (seconded). Ms. Townsend nominated Ms. Grady (seconded).

The vote was 4-4. Ms. Hunsinger again opened up the floor, and the vote remained 4-4.

Ms. Hunsinger opened nominations for Clerk. Mr. Wojcik nominated Ms. Townsend (seconded). No other nominations were made. The vote was 8-0.

Ms. Hunsinger and Mr. Haberman left the meeting.

Ms. Townsend served as Temporary Chair for the remainder of the meeting. It was decided that we would meet Tuesday June 3 at 7:00pm, location to be determined.

We discussed our mandated requirement to hold a public hearing within 45 days of our election. After discussion about dates, and expressing concern numbers of attendees and about the end of school, we chose Wednesday June 18, 2003. Ms. Altman volunteered to check with Ms. Hunsinger about the availability of the High School Auditorium as our first choice in locations and, failing that, Ms. Miller would check with Dr. Leary's office to ask about Bay Path College's availability. Ms. Grady will call LCTV to set up taping the meeting.

We discussed setting a second hearing and decided that we would have one during the day during the same week. We want to get a second hearing in the Council on Aging's room. Mr. Wojcik will inquire about that room's availability.

We discussed methods for involving the public and encouraging participation. We welcome all comments and questions. In addition to oral comments at public hearings, citizens can write letters addressed to the Charter Commission, 20 Williams St., Longmeadow, MA 01106. Ms. Townsend will inquire about a "suggestion box" at the Library (as per her handout). Ms. Townsend will write a press release about the first public hearing. We will discuss this further at the next meeting.

Mr. Occhiuti will ask Town Administrator Susan Wright if visitors may tape Charter Commission meetings.

Approved June 3, 2003

Respectfully submitted, Rebecca M. Townsend (Clerk)