

**Essex Charter Review Committee Meeting Minutes  
(Draft)**

Town of Essex Charter Review Committee  
Draft Regular Meeting Minutes  
Tuesday November 22, 2022

Charter Review Committee: Lauren Layman, Charles Tabone, Alexis Dubief, Bruce Post, Margaret Smith, Dawn Hill-Fleury.

Administration and Staff: Tammy Getchell

Others Present: On Teams – Irene Wrenner, Betsy Dunn, Gina Halpin

**1. Call to Order**

- a. Ms. Layman called the Essex Charter Review Committee to order at 5:36 PM.

**2. Agenda Additions/Changes**

- a. No changes

**3. Approve Minutes**

- a. Corrected spelling of Mr. Signorello
- b. Changed line 51 per Ms. Smith
- c. Mr. Tabone made a motion seconded by Mr. Post to approve minutes as amended: November 15, 2022. Motion passed 5-0.

**4. Public Comment**

- a. Ms. Dunn was wondering why we referred to it as Town of Essex in the charter. Ms. Layman responded that this is how the original charter was and we did not receive any requests to change it.

**5. Review Final Draft of Charter**

- a. Reviewed charter for grammatical errors and spelling errors and made appropriate adjustments.
- b. Subchapter 6 Budget section 117-601. The last sentence dealing with school districts was removed as previously agreed upon.
- c. Ms. Dubief made a motion seconded by Mr. Tabone to recommend to present the charter to the Selectboard.
  - i. Discussion – Ms. Smith felt that the local option tax should not be in the charter. Ms. Dubief felt that we have had multiple meetings where people were given ample floor time to speak on this subject. Ms. Layman concurred that we have spent many meeting on this, we listened to what people had to say and the matter was voted on (motion passed on 11/1/22. 4-1).
  - ii. Mr. Post requested to call to question after which the debating parties stopped of their own volition and voting took place.
  - iii. Motion passed 3-2. Mr. Post and Ms. Smith nay.

**6. To Be Determined**

- a. Ms. Smith made a motion seconded by Mr. Tabone to recommend to the Selectboard that they conduct a study of wards and districts to include descriptions of and census information and anything else relevant to that. Motion passed 5-0.

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- b. Lauren proposed that when the charter is presented to the Selectboard, we let them know of our process and goals that we worked on during this time. How we shifted the structure in an attempt to make the charter easier to read and how we added some new items that were not previously in the charter, as well as some recommendations that while not in the charter we would like them to consider.
- c. Ms. Hill-Fleury suggested that we also include to the Selectboard that we inform them that we did receive input from the Town Manager and employees during this process.

**7. Next Meeting**

- a. No future meetings are scheduled at this time.

**8. Adjourn**

- a. Mr. Post made a motion seconded by Ms. Dubief to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed 5-0.
- b. Meeting Adjourned 6:27 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Charles Tabone  
Minute taker