

AMENDED MOTION ARTICLE 73

Article 73 – Addition to Stoughton Bylaw – Establishment of a Charter Review Committee

To see if the Town will vote to include in the Town of Stoughton Bylaws Part 1: Administrative Legislation the addition of a Charter Review Committee as described below.

Petitioner: Charter Review Committee

Date: February 7, 2023 – Amended April 28, 2023

Estimated Cost: None

Chapter 11 – Charter Review Committee

§ 11-1 Duties of The Committee

The Charter Review Committee shall serve as an advisory committee to the Stoughton Representative Town Meeting by making recommendations to the Town, through the Select Board, for changes to the Town Charter by proposing articles for the Annual Town Meeting Warrant. As an advisory committee to Town Meeting, it shall be subject to all the provisions of the Town Charter and Bylaws regarding public hearings, legal advertising, reporting, publishing, and distribution of its recommendations to the Town Meeting Representatives.

§ 11-2 Membership of the Committee

This Committee shall consist of Town Meeting Representatives who shall serve for terms of two years as long as they remain Town Meeting Representatives. One Town Meeting Representative shall be appointed at large by the Moderator, and one member shall be appointed by the Chairperson of each precinct delegation. The membership shall also include the Deputy Moderator and one Town Meeting Representative from the Committee on Municipal Regulations.

§ 11-3 Meetings of the Committee

The Charter Review Committee will meet on a regular basis to study the Town Charter, make recommendations for updates or changes to the Town Charter, and consider recommendations for changes to the Town Charter from residents of Stoughton, Town Meeting Representatives, the Select Board, Municipal Departments, Town Committees, or the Town Attorney.

§ 11-4 Limitations

The Charter Review Committee may not propose any change in the Charter relating in any way to the composition, mode of election or appointment, or terms of office of the legislative body (Representative Town Meeting), or the Select Board, or the School Committee, or Town Manager.

When a recommended change to the Charter that impacts any other part of Town Government is supported by the Committee, the Committee will invite a member of the impacted constituency to participate in a discussion of the proposed change with the Committee prior to voting on an article for the Town Warrant.

§ 11-5 Public Hearings

As part of its study, the Committee shall hold one or more public informational hearings on the changes to the Charter being proposed, notice of which shall be posted publicly and published for each of two weeks, and not less than seven days preceding such hearing.

§ 11-6 Recommendations

The Charter Review Committee may annually make recommendations to the Select Board for the Town Meeting Warrant for any changes to the Charter, in the form of warrant articles, that are recommended by a majority vote of the Committee. In the event a Special Town Meeting is called in addition to the Annual Town Meeting, the Charter Review Committee may make additional recommendations for changes to the Charter.

§ 11-7 Home Rule

Any actions taken by the Committee will be in compliance with Massachusetts Home Rule Procedures GL. Chapter 43-B.

§ 11-8 Quorum

The Charter Review Committee shall not meet or conduct business without the presence of a quorum. A majority of the current members of the Charter Review Committee shall constitute a quorum. The Charter Review Committee shall approve its actions by majority vote of those members present.

(History: A Town Meeting Charter Review Committee was established as a temporary committee of Town Meeting on April 26, 1976 at the Annual Town Meeting. The 1977 Town Meeting rejected an article to dissolve the Town Meeting Charter Review Committee.)

MOTION: That the Town vote to amend the Town of Stoughton Bylaws Part 1: Administrative Legislation by adding Chapter 11- Establishment of a Charter Review Committee including Sections § 11-1 through § 11-8 as printed above.

Municipal Regulations: No Recommendation was made as a quorum was not available for a vote on the article.