

Charter Review Proposed Changes Rationale

May 2025 Annual Town Meeting

Article 47, Charter Changes and Clarifications

Article	Section	Rationale
1	§ C1-1 Incorporation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clarifying language
	§ C1-2 Powers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Standardizing capitalization for proper nouns
	§ C1-4 Intergovernmental relations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Standardizing capitalization for proper nouns
4	§ C4-1 Intent	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clarification of procedures – adding statement that the procedures are in place whether or not Town Manager is under contract, due to past differences of opinion
	§ C4-2 Powers and duties – B	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clarification of procedures – specifically name the budget as part of the fiscal plan Standardizing capitalization for proper nouns
	§ C4-2 Powers and duties – E	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grammar correction
	§ C4-2 Powers and duties – F	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clarification of procedures – including both revenue and expenses; clarifying procedure for School Department budget
	§ C4-2 Powers and duties – G	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clarification of procedures – there did not seem to be a need to specifically name the Town Library when not naming any other town buildings
	§ C4-2 Powers and duties – H	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clarification of procedures – removed designation of “books” to make it inclusive of all School Department purchases; removed the public library as exempt from purchases falling under the Town Manager’s duties
	§ C4-2 Powers and duties – K	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clarification of procedures – adds boards and commissions to the list of possible entities under the Town Manager’s control Updating language – change from “books and papers” to “records” to include current technology
	§ C4-3 Absence of Town Manager	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grammar correction
7	§ C7-1 Annual and Special Town Meetings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clarification of procedures – Included language to clarify the process for opening a warrant for Special Town Meeting
	§ C7-3 Compensation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Standardizing capitalization for proper nouns
	§ C7-4 Deputy Town Moderator: election and duties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clarification of procedures – changes to “serve as a member” rather than “be a member”
	§ C7-5 Town Meeting Representatives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clarification of procedures – clarifies that Town Meeting terms may be shorter than three years (in the case of filling a term that has been unfilled in previous elections, or one that was vacated in the midst of a standard 3-year term)

Article	Section	Rationale
7	§ C7-6.1 Vacancies among Town Meeting Representatives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Standardizing capitalization for proper nouns
	§ C7-6.2 Election by Ballot for Town Meeting Representative	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Standardizing capitalization for proper nouns
	§ C7-11 Organizational Town Meeting.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clarification of procedures – Updated the process of Organizational Town Meeting to streamline the process, allowing for the business of the entire body to be addressed first, followed by precinct-specific business. This will allow precincts conduct their business at different paces.
	§ C7-12 Compensation of Town Meeting Representatives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clarification of procedures – Removes language allowing Town Meeting Representatives to receive reimbursement for expenses.
	§ C7-13 Nonvoting members of Town Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clarification of procedures – Adds Town Accountant to the list of officials present at Town Meeting; adds language to make clear that the individuals whose roles are named in this section may or may not be elected Town Meeting representatives.
	§ C7-14 Town Meeting standing committees – B	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (1) ¶1: Clarification of procedures – Clarifies the process for Moderator appointments to Finance Committee; clarifies that the 9-year limit on Finance Committee service is cumulative (not necessarily consecutive); clarifies situations leading to ceasing to be a member of the Finance Committee (1) ¶3: Standardizing capitalization for proper nouns (1) ¶4: Clarification of procedures – Removes language about stating the tax rate in the warrant (2) Clarification of procedures – Adds language to allow for precinct representatives to Municipal Regulations be elected by their precinct, to align with current practice (charter currently states “appointed by the Chairperson of each precinct delegation”) (3) Clarification of procedures – Adds language to allow for precinct representatives to Municipal Operations to be elected by their precinct, to align with current practice (4) Clarification of procedures – Adds language to allow for precinct representatives to Intergovernmental Relations be elected by their precinct, to align with current practice