

Summary of Barrington Charter Review Commission Meeting, September 13, 2023

The 2023-2024 Barrington Charter Review Commission (CRC) met for the first time on September 13 at the Barrington Middle School. CRC members elected Joy Hearn as the group's Chair, Jeff Brenner as the Vice Chair, and Dan O'Mahony as the Scribe. The group plans to meet monthly through June 2024 at which time it will present its recommendations to the Town Council. Any proposed Charter revisions accepted by the Town Council will appear as ballot questions at the November 2024 general election.

The CRC plans to solicit input from a wide spectrum of stakeholders about their ideas for possible changes to the Town Charter, including the Town Council, the Town Manager and department heads, the School Committee and Superintendent, the Committee on Appropriations, and other Town boards and commissions. The CRC also is planning a survey of Barrington residents to gather input.

As charged by the Town Council, a key focus of the CRC's work will be exploring possible alternatives to the Financial Town Meeting (FTM) format for approving the Town's budget. The CRC will investigate the options available. As a first step, the CRC is seeking information from other Rhode Island towns that may have recently moved away from the FTM format and whether or not that transition was successful. This will be a topic of discussion at the CRC's next meeting on October 11.

A website has been created to share CRC information and documentation:

<https://www.barrington.ri.gov/452/Charter-Review-Commission> (part of the Town's website, under "Government – Boards & Commissions"). The CRC plans to disseminate information and updates about its work widely so that Barrington voters are informed about the process and have opportunities to provide input about changes to the Town Charter.

The next meeting of the Barrington Charter Review Commission will be on Wednesday, October 11, beginning at 7 P.M. at Barrington Middle School (Global Classroom, located on the second floor, in the back of the library). The meeting will be streamed live via Zoom as well (viewing only).

The members of the Charter Review Commission are: Kenneth J. Block, Jeffrey S. Brenner, Lisa Daft, Joy S. Hearn, Allan C. Klepper, Sarah O'Brien, Daniel O'Mahony, Stephen B. Primiano, Thomas TR Rimoshytus, Cynthia Rosengard, and Magnus Thorsson. The CRC is supported by Town Clerk Meredith DeSisto and Deputy Town Clerk Stephanie Bernardo.