

*Attachment 9-10-14*

**RE: Charter Extension**

Town Manager

**Sent:** Thursday, September 04, 2014 11:03 AM

**To:** Charles Rankie

**Cc:** Barbara Thain; Rosanne Adams [rma249@yahoo.com]

Dear Mr. Rankie,

At the August 28<sup>th</sup>, 2014 meeting of the Eliot Selectmen, it was voted in the affirmative to permit the Eliot Charter Commission up to one additional year (through 11-6-15) to complete their work.

Sincerely,

Dana K. Lee

Town Manager, Eliot

# Town charter effort extended

*Eliot selectmen stretch process to late 2015* *If adopted, a charter, which would serve as Eliot's 'constitution,' would become the guiding document in governing the town.*

BY RALPH MORANG  
news@seacoastonline.com

ELIOT, Maine — The town Charter Commission will miss a November deadline to present a draft charter this year and has been granted an extension by the Board of Selectmen for another year.

Charter Commission Chairman Charles L. Rankie Jr. read a letter from the commission to selectmen at their meeting last week to ask for the extension. As a reason for the deadline, the letter states, "While the commission had hoped to meet the 9-month deadline we have found that it was not possible. We have chosen to carefully review each section sentence by sentence. This approach, while time consuming, will render a thoroughly analyzed finished product that represents the

majority thinking of our commission."

The letter states Maine law requires the Charter Commission to present its report to the board within nine months of the election of commission members. It also says the board can extend the time limit up to 24 months.

At the Charter Commission's Aug. 13 meeting, members said they were eight days beyond the deadline for a preliminary report to selectmen, as mandated under state law. They also noted the law allows for an extension for up to 24 months after the establishment of the commission, which was Nov. 5, 2013.

Asked by Selectman Rebecca Davis about the budget for the commission, Rankie said the budget is \$10,000 and little has been spent. He said he would also ask the town manager for clerical assistance.

Selectmen granted an extension to Nov. 6, 2015. Selectman Roland Fernald abstained as he is a Charter Commission member.

Currently, without a town charter, Eliot is governed by state statutes. If adopted, a charter, which would serve as Eliot's "constitution," would become the guiding document in governing the town. Eliot switched to the town manager form of government in February.

In November, voters approved the establishment of the commission and elected six of the nine members: Rosanne Adams, Roland Fernald, Robert Fisher, John Murphy, Gary Sinden and Edward Strong. Selectmen appointed three members as permitted by state law: Rankie, Dennis Lentz and Maryann Place.

Commission members have looked at many charters of

## Eliot Harbor Commission for meeting Sept. 1

ELIOT, Maine — The meeting for the Eliot Harbor Commission will be at 10 a.m. on Monday, Sept. 15, in a large meeting room at the town office building. Members of the commission are expected to introduce themselves, elect leaders, discuss the panel's scope and set future meetings.

## Walk to Cure Diabetes Sept.

SACO, Maine — More than 700 walkers representing businesses, families, schools and other organizations are expected to participate in the annual Maine Walk to Cure Diabetes, on Sunday, Sept. 14, at the Thornton Academy.

Event organizers have set a fund-raising goal of more than \$150,000, which will help fund Type 1 diabetes research.

On-site registration is from 8 a.m. to 10 a.m., the walk will start at 10 a.m. To form a team or get pre-registered, visit the Web site, JDRF Walk to Cure Diabetes.

## Kittery Seaside road race benefits local PTA group

KITTERY, Maine — Registration is open for the annual Seaside 4-mile road race sponsored by the Kittery PTA.

The family-friendly race includes a free kids' fun run for ages 3 to 10 and a 2.5-mile family walk. Strollers and joggers are allowed on the course. New this year, children 10 and under can participate in the 4-mile race or 2.5-mile walk for free.

The Kittery Seaside 4-



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