

ELIOT TOWN CHARTER COMMISSION
MINUTES – September 23, 2015

PRESENT: Charles Rankie, Jr. (Chair), Gary Sinden, Rosanne Adams, Roland Fernald, Robert Fisher, Dennis Lentz, John Murphy, Edward Strong. 2 citizens in attendance.

ABSENT: Maryann Place [excused]

BUSINESS

1. MOTION by Robert Fisher, 2nd Edward Strong to approve the Minutes of August 28, 2015, as corrected. VOTE: 8-0.
2. MOTION by Edward Strong, 2nd Dennis Lentz to approve the Minutes of September 9, 2015 as corrected. VOTE: 8-0.
3. PUBLIC COMMENT: none
4. CORRESPONDENCE:
 - a. Agenda for this meeting
 - b. Agenda for the 9-10-15 meeting between the Chair and the Town Manager [attached]
 - c. Email from news reporter Ralph Morang explaining he is ill and is unable to attend tonight's meeting [attached]
 - d. Email from Attorney Stephen Langsdorf thanking the Commission for the opportunity to work with the Charter and stating that it does not contain any prohibitions by either the US or Maine Constitutions. Roland Fernald suggested that we also write and thank him. The Chair suggested we take it up under New Business.
 - e. Email from the Secretary, with attached Cover Page done by Dennis Lentz, letting Commission know that she had send out the Cover Page of the Charter along with a change she had made. The letter also thanked Dennis Lentz for the work he has done for the Commission updating the Charter. [attached]
5. BUSINESS:
 - a. The Chair suggested inviting news reporter Ralph Morang to our next meeting. There was NO OBJECTION.
 - b. Next meetings: It was AGREED that we will meet
 - i. October 14th and invite newspaper reporters to meet with us
 - ii. October 28th at which time we will hold a Public Hearing at 7pm in the large meeting room of the Town Hall. The Chair said he would ask that the town staff handle the legal notice postings. There was NO OBJECTION.
 - c. Charter Promotion /advertising:
 - i. The Chair noted that the public copies of the finished Charter have arrived.

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- ii. Rosanne Adams reported that she and Robert Fisher had secured a space at Eliot Festival Day and that they would man a booth, utilizing the display made for the Town Hall. A brochure outlining features of each of the Charter Articles has been printed [attached] and will be given out along with those desiring a copy of the Charter. Robert Fisher said he would be sure to monitor and make sure only Eliot residents receive a hard copy of the Charter. The Donna Murphy, chair of the Democratic Committee has expressed that they would be happy to have brochures available at their booth also. Rosanne said that she will see that they have some also and that the Eliot Historical Society will have them at their booth too.
- iii. Rosanne asked about other places where the brochures could be put and suggested Baran Place. Members also suggested the Meet Market and Cumberland Farms.
- iv. Gary Sinden suggested having a sign for his motorcycle. He will be riding in the parade at Eliot Festival Day. Rosanne Adams asked what he might need and the wording was discussed. Rosanne said she would make up some signs.
- v. Charles Rankie spoke about bumper stickers and that although the information went out he never received an illustration and suggested that because there is now not enough time to get them ready that the idea be dropped.
- vi. Road Signs:
The Chair read the quotes from Mainelyprinting and Bradbury Productions. There was no information on cost from Bradbury but Mr. Pomerleau who had had some done for him thought it was around \$4 each. It was AGREED that we might need 100 so we have enough for people to put on their lawns in endorsement of the Charter because it was felt that is a very effective way to promote it. It was AGREED to have Bradbury Productions do it as they have a lower cost. The wording of “Vote Yes for the Town Charter www.eliotmaine.org” and the color Hunter Green with white lettering was AGREED upon. It was AGREED to have the Secretary draw up the sign and send to the Town Manager.
- vi. Robert Fisher suggested placing a banner across the road at the Fire Station and said he would look into that.
- vii. Robert Pomerleau brought a proposal from the Eliot Citizens Information Network (ECIN) group and offered that the Charter Commission participate in a combined mailing with them. He suggested that the Commission could take half a sheet of paper to explain the Charter and share half the cost of producing and mailing as an insert in the Sentinel. He suggested that it contain information explaining the difference between the Charter and what we have now and provide information that would explain why people should support the Charter and gave some examples. Mr. Pomerleau said that what was written would have to be done

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is such a way that it does not advocate a voting position of yes or no and would have to be reviewed by ECIN. The Chair commented that regardless there are people that consider that group (ECIN) to be a political group and that he believes that the best thing to promote the charter would be for that group to promote the charter independently and let the Charter promote independently too because no matter what someone would see it that way and we could debate it but.... There was no further comment.

6. NEW BUSINESS:

- a. Robert Fisher said that he planned to write a letter to the Editor speaking about voting for the Charter.

COMMISSION ROUNDTABLE: no comments.

Meeting adjourned at 8:47 pm upon the MOTION of Robert Fisher, 2nd Edward Strong. VOTE: 8-0.

Approved: _____

Rosanne M. Adams
Secretary

CC: Committee Members
Eliot Town Clerk