

Charter Amendments

Annual Town Election - March 13, 2010

At the November 9, 2009 Special Town Meeting, amendments to the Town of Bedford Charter were approved. The final step required for approval of these amendments is a majority vote at the Annual Town Election. A summary of the amendments follows:

1. Housekeeping amendments including language and order changes

- Changing references to the *General Laws of the Commonwealth* to General Laws of the Commonwealth **of Massachusetts** (Sections 1-2, 1-4, 3-1, 3-4, 4-2)
- Changing references to the *General Laws* to the **Massachusetts General Laws** (Sections 2-4, 2-13, 2-15, 2-16, 3-2, 5-1, 6-1)
- For consistency, changing references to *the Charter* or *Charter* to **this Charter** (Sections 1-3, 5-1, 8-1, 9-6, 9-7, 9-15)
- Changing *Chairman* to **Chair** (Sections 6-1, 6-2) and Board of Selectmen to **Selectmen** (Section 9-11)
- Eliminating the use of terms such as **herein** and **thereon** in Sections 8-1 and 8-2

2. Town Meeting, Sections 2-1, 2-2, 2-3

- Simplify the language in Section 2-1 eliminating the statement that all registered voters of the Town shall be members of Town Meeting as redundant by stating that **“all registered voters shall be eligible to vote at Town Meeting”**
- Reverse the order of the sections on Adjournment and Call of Special Town Meetings as logical sequencing

3. Town Meeting Vote by Consent, Section 2-9

- Change wording to allow for multiple consent articles. Currently although we use two consent articles, the Charter allows for **a consent article**.

4. Procedure to Create a Bylaw, Section 2-16

- This section has been amended to clarify that this is the procedure to establish a **General Bylaw**. It does not refer to Zoning bylaws.

5. Appointments, Section 3-3

- Delete Public Ceremonies Committee due to the elimination of this committee

- Add Youth and Family Services Committee not previously added to the list of Selectmen appointments.

6. Capital Expenditure Committee, Section 6-2

- Eliminate the description of the **duties** of the Capital Expenditure Committee in the Charter. The duties have been added to the Bylaws making this consistent with the treatment of other committees.

7. Article 9, General Provisions, Sections 9-1 to 9-15

- Reorder this article grouping like sections

Prepared by the Charter and Bylaw Review Committee

Betsey Anderson, Chair, Joan Bowen, Vice Chair, Lora Goldenberg, Clerk, Terrence Cullen, George Dalrymple, Lisa Mustapich, Noreen O’Gara, Mark Seigenthaler, Dawn Theodore