

**CHARTER REVIEW COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 29, 2025, at 11:00 a.m. EST**

Meeting conducted via Virtual-WebEx - recorded and available for review at the following link: <http://trurotv.truro-ma.gov/CablecastPublicSite/show/7451?site=1>

A quorum of committee members was present:

In attendance: Michael Cohen, Chair; Brian Boyle, Vice Chair; David Bannard, Clerk; Fred Fehlau; Christopher Rocca; Chris Lucy.

Chair Cohen called the meeting to order at 11 am.

Chris Rocca shared the proposed script for interviews with Town Department heads regarding the proposed charter amendment related to communication between Department heads, Select Board members, and committee chairs. Each Department head will be asked the same questions and can choose to decline to answer any or all of them.

A discussion ensued regarding the proposed interviews, which are set to be conducted by Chair Cohen and member Rocca.

Chris Lucy was OK with a minor change to the proposed language: deleting “regulated and adjudicated.” Brian Boyle made a motion to that effect, which was seconded and approved unanimously. Mr. Boyle made a second motion to amend the same provisions in section 4-5-2, which was seconded and passed unanimously.

All department head interviews will remain confidential.

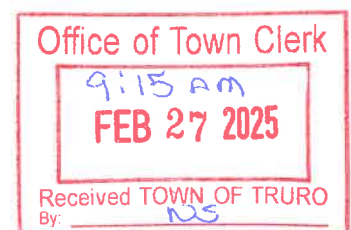
Brian Boyle suggested that the questions to be asked of each Department head be sent out in advance of the interviews. The committee was generally in agreement on this point.

Chair Cohen agreed to schedule the next committee meeting after the interviews are completed.

Clerk Bannard moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously, and the meeting was adjourned at 11:28 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

David Bannard, Clerk



Proposed changes to the Truro Charter, sections 4-5-2 and 6-2-12.

To: Truro Town Department Heads

The CRC has been asked to consider updates to two sections of the Town Charter that outline how Select Board members and Board Chairs may interact with town employees. Our goal is to clarify the language while ensuring no undue burden is placed on town staff. As part of this process, we are seeking feedback from department heads through individual interviews. Participation is voluntary, and all responses will remain confidential. If you prefer not to participate, you may opt out.

The Town Manager will coordinate the scheduling of these interviews. Thank you for your time and assistance in this process.

-Truro Charter Review Committee

Current language in section 4-5-2

Except for the purposes of investigation in accordance with section 4-4-1 of this Charter, the Select Board shall deal with employees who are subject to the direction and supervision of the Town Manager solely through the Town Manager, and neither the Board nor its members shall give orders to any such employee, the single exception being the Administrative Secretary who reports both to the Town Manager and the Select Board.

Proposed update to section 4-5-2

Except for the purposes of investigation in accordance with section 4-4-1 of this Charter, the Select Board shall deal with employees who are subject to the direction and supervision of the Town Manager solely through the Town Manager, and neither the Board nor its members shall give orders to any such employee, the single exception being the Administrative Secretary who reports both to the Town Manager and the Select Board; provided, however, that nothing in this Charter shall be construed to prohibit informational non-directive conversations of Select Board members with Department Heads.

Current language in section 6-2-12

Multi-member bodies shall deal with employees who are subject to the direction and supervision of the Town Manager solely through the Town Manager, and neither the multi-member body nor its members shall give orders to any such employee.

Proposed update to section 6-2-12

Multi-member bodies shall deal with employees who are subject to the direction and supervision of the Town Manager solely through the Town Manager, and neither the multi-member body nor its members shall give orders to any such employee; provided, however, that nothing in this Charter shall be construed to prohibit informational nondirective conversations of Board Chairs with their respective Department Heads.

