

APRIL 26, 2012 TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
"EXHIBIT B"

Robert Boyden

11 Cucumber Hill Rd

Foster, RI

April 21, 2012

Foster Town Council

181 Howard Hill Rd

Foster, RI

Dear Honorable Council Members:

It is my pleasure as Chair of the Charter Review Committee to present to you the results of the Committee's work.

The Committee formed in December and met 6 times the last meeting being held on April 19th. We solicited input and suggestions from the citizens, department heads, boards and committees and from the Committee members themselves. A total of 30 suggested changes were received. As our minutes reflect, we discussed, debated and voted on each one. Seven were approved by the Committee for presentation to you and are attached to this letter.

The specific text we are presenting is, in most cases, the result of considerable discussion. We have done our best to provide appropriate language that is short, succinct and as clear as possible. We also did our best to insure that we did not advance any proposal that would be contrary to state or federal law. That said, none of us are lawyers. For this reason the Committee believes it is important that any proposal, k you might choose to place on the November ballot be reviewed by the Solicitor.

I would like to thank the Council for appointing me to the Committee and I'd like to thank committee members Susan Tabor, Joe Carey, Ron Cervasio and Steve Brown. Their sincerity, knowledge and openness made our deliberations easy and productive.

Sincerely,



Robert A. Boyden, Chair

2012 Charter Review Committee

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Add Section 2.01 (c):

Following the election of Council Members in the November General Election and until such a time as the newly elected council takes office as provided in Section 2.01.b, the agenda of council meetings and decisions of the Council shall be limited to the approval of payroll warrants, general warrants and other such obligations that routinely come before the Council and which are required for the day to day operation of the town or to provide for the citizens of the town during natural disasters, civil disturbances and other similar emergencies. This section shall not apply if all five incumbent council members are re-elected in the General Election.

This addition to the Charter will provide for a more orderly transition between the General Election and the seating of a new Town Council.

Change 2.10 to read as follows:

The Town Council shall provide for an annual financial audit to be conducted in accordance with State and Federal guidelines.

This removes the requirement for a performance audit but retains the requirement for an annual financial audit.

Change 2.17 to read as follows:

All other appointments, including the appointment of Town officers not specifically listed herein, except as this Charter may otherwise prescribe, shall be made by the Town Council. All vacancies shall be advertised in one or more publications of general circulation.

This requires that positions for all appointments including those to town boards and committees be advertised.

Change 3.04 to read as follows:

The Moderator shall have the duty of supervising all elections in accordance with the provisions of the general election laws. District Clerks and Moderators shall be appointed by the Board of Canvassers in accordance with Title 17-11-6 of Rhode Island General Laws.

This is a technical change to bring the Charter in line with Rhode Island General Laws. District Clerks and Moderators of elections are now appointed by the Board of Canvassers.

Change 5.01 to read as follows:

There shall be a School Committee consisting of three members who shall be elected to serve 4 year terms. In the 2014 General Election two members shall be elected for four year terms and one member shall be elected for a two year term. The two candidates who receive the most votes shall fill the 4 year terms.

This change provides for staggered 4 year terms for School Committee members.

Add the following at the end of 10.14:

Once a capital appropriation has been deemed abandoned, any funds remaining from the appropriation shall be returned to the Capital Reserve Fund.

This requires that unused capital funds revert to the Capital Reserve Fund not the General Fund.

Change 10.17 to read as follows:

The Town Council shall set aside, as part of each annual budget no less than 100% of all funds collected pursuant to the Land Use Conveyance Tax which are retained by the Town of Foster as provided by State Law. Except as provided for in Section 10.17.a, the funds shall be used exclusively by the Foster Land Trust for the acquisition and preservation of open space pursuant to the legislative Charter of said Land Trust.

This change requires approval of the Foster Land Trust's operating budget by the voters at the Financial Town Meeting and that the Land Trust reimburse the Town the amount of that budget from the funds it receives from the Real Estate Transfer Tax.

Add 10.17.a to read as follows:

The operating and administrative budget of the Foster Land Trust shall be approved by the voters at the annual Financial Town Meeting. The approved amount shall be reimbursed to the Town by the Foster Land Trust from the funds designated in section 10.17.