

**Draft Meeting Minutes of the Charter and Bylaw Review Committee (CBRC)  
Meeting held Monday, March 31, 2025 at 7:00 P.M.**

Attendees: Paul Griesmer, Chris Weithman, Harriet Merkwowitz, Bob Awkward at 7:06 PM, Donna McKenzie at 7:03 PM, Paul Connolly at 7:06 PM

Public attendees: Patricia Dameo; Dom Mallozzi,

[Meeting Recording](#)

[Meeting Materials](#)

**AGENDA**

The Meeting was called to order at 7:04 PM by a roll call vote of 4-0-0; a quorum was present. It was announced the meeting is being recorded on Pegasus.

Citizen's Concerns : Committee member Donna McKenzie reported that the effort to place the question of a Charter Commission on the local ballot is gearing up to collect signatures again.

Update on Special Act Status: Ms. Weithman reported on the information provided in the meeting materials regarding the Special Act. Bill H.3898, an Act to Amend the Town of Natick Home Rule Charter has been assigned to the Joint Committee on Municipalities and Regional Government. No hearing on this bill has been set.

Motions for TM warrant articles: Chair Griesmer reported back on the Fin Com Hearing of March 25<sup>th</sup>. All CBRC motions except 2 received favorable action. Motions E and F were part of the public hearing and received favorable comments. However, the finance committee asked for revised wording for both motions.

Motion E Seeks to amend Bylaw Article 81 Chemical Storage Tanks and Systems but including underground propane tanks to select sections of bylaw. No other propane tanks are impacted by the proposed changes. These changes were requested by the town's Director of Public Health. The committee reviewed revised redline document of Article 81 and a revised motion E [see meeting materials]. The proposed changes were also reviewed by the Fire Chief. Special Counsel has reviewed the revised motion.

A motion to rescind the original Motion E and approve the revised Motion E as outlined by the materials reviewed in the meeting and dated 3.31.25 was made by Mr. Awkward and seconded by Ms. Merkwowitz. The motion to accept the revised motion was approved by a roll call vote 6-0-0.

The revised Motion F adjusted language as requested by the Finance Committee. The motion is a proposal to add a new section 9 by Bylaw Article 22 Town Counsel. The revised new sections proposed creating special zoning advisory counsel, which would be legal counsel with experience in zoning and familiarity with Natick's zoning bylaws. The new sections would assist and advise the Planning Board, the finance Committee and any other standing committee created by Town Meeting that might deal with zoning issues. The responsibilities of the advisory counsel are outlined in section b. and the timing of appointment of the counsel is outlined in section C. The revised text has been reviewed and approved by Special Counsel DeRensis.

Mr. Awkward moved to rescind the previous Motion F and approve the revised Motion F as presented in the meeting this evening, dated 3.31.25, and as shared in the meeting materials. The motion was seconded by Ms. Merkowitz. The committee approved the revised motion by a roll call vote 5-0-1.

Ongoing meeting schedule: The committee will need a meeting to discuss the report to town meeting and any meetings needed to prepare for a potential hearing on Beacon Hill regarding the Special Act.

Special Council Invoice: A small invoice was received by the Chair and will be bundled with future invoices for the next meeting. No action was taken on any invoices.

Outstanding Meeting Minutes for February 4 and 18 will be handled at a future meeting.

Adjournment moved by Ms. Merkowitz seconded by Ms. McKenzie by a roll call vote of 6-0-0 adjourned at 7:58 PM.

Respectfully submitted:

Date approved:



4/24/25

Christine Weithman

Secretary, Charter and Bylaw Review Committee -