

**Minutes Government Study Committee
September 14, 2005**

Present: George Bailey, Anne Carney, Andy Nebenzahl, Pat Zlotin

Moved to accept the minutes of the January 4, 2005 meeting. Approved.

Discussion was held regarding the length of time signatures on a petition are valid. The Secretary of State's office would only say 'a reasonable amount of time', generally interpreted to mean 18 months. Anne reviewed the time lines for a petition for a charter based on this guideline.

A person in the Secretary of State's office suggested Sharon petition the legislature through the Board of Selectmen to form a charter commission rather than going through town meeting. The committee felt the town meeting process was more appropriate and plans to pursue that avenue.

Moved: Recommend a petition process to achieve the number of signatures required to put the question of the formation of a charter commission on the ballot as soon as practical. Unanimous.

The most reasonable time table was determined to be starting in November and completing the 2,000+ signature gathering by May. This would allow the process of 'selling' the Charter to begin in the summer of 2006 for the 2007 ballot question.

It was agreed that the committee should appear before the Board of Selectmen to discuss this process and recommendation.

Having a newly formed group collect the necessary signatures was discussed. The committee agreed that our work is complete and the committee should ask for an article on the Warrant of the May 2006 Annual meeting to dissolve the committee and have a new group move the formation of a charter commission forward.

A draft report from the committee listing what has been done with a recommendation for future action, i.e. the formation of a charter commission, should be prepared.

The next meeting is scheduled for October 18 at 7:30 at Town Hall.