

TO: Charter Commission
FROM: Dennis W. Cardiff
DATE: April 25, 2016
RE: One Year Calendar

MEMORANDUM

The following is a draft plan to complete our work in one year for your consideration and our collective discussion.

Mission: The Charter Commission elected by the voters of Framingham is charged by law with preparing a written instrument pursuant to the provisions of chapter forty-three B which establishes and defines the structure of city and town government for a particular community and which may create local offices, and distribute powers, duties and responsibilities among local offices and which may establish and define certain procedures to be followed by the city or town government. This document, called a Charter, is then submitted to the voters at the next town election, and if approved by the voters, serves like Framingham's constitution.

- Goals:**
- 1) Affirm that Framingham is a great community in which to live, learn, work and play;
 - 2) Acknowledge that our current system of government has inefficiencies that need to be altered, improved or changed in order to make informed decisions, to meet the needs of a modern, complex community of 70,000 people or to effectively represent the interests of all the community's neighborhoods;
 - 3) Conduct the work of the Commission in a transparent, open and participatory manner reaching out to all segments of our diverse community – including translating our reports and holding hearings in other languages -- listening and being open to a variety of opinions, even ones different than our own current views before making any specific, final proposals;
 - 4) Propose to voters a strong, innovative and accountable executive, elected or appointed, able to advocate on our behalf with leaders in industry, government and society;
 - 5) Propose to voters a legislative branch, elected by the people of our neighborhoods and accountable to every segment of our diverse community that serves the important role of providing effective checks and balances to the executive branch of government so that ensures everyone's voice is heard in our decision-making process;
 - 6) Ensure that whatever structure of government we propose to voters provides a strong voice for our students, parents and teachers, and include a mechanism

that ensures that municipal leaders work cooperatively, collaboratively and in concert with the School Department; and

7) Provide clear mechanisms for public participation, input and redress.

Timeline: 34 Regular Meetings in Memorial Building starting at 7:00 PM on: Mondays
April 4, 11, 25; May 2, 16, 23; June 13, 20, 27; July 11, 18, 25;
August 1, 8, 15, 22, 29; September 12, 19, 26; October 17, 24, 31;
November 7, 14, 21, 28; December 5, 12, 19; January 9, 23, 30; February 6.

11 Public Hearings at various times and locations: Monday, May 9; Tuesday, June 7; Wednesday, July 6; Thursday, August 4; Friday, September 9; Saturday, October 1; Monday, November 7; Tuesday, December 6; Wednesday, January 4; Thursday, February 2; and, Friday, March 3.

9 Community Educational Forums at various times and locations: February 9 through 30.

Election Day: Tuesday, April 4, 2017

Benchmarks: April & May: What do voters need and want from their local government? Solicit community input from: residents; elected and appointed officials; business, religious, social, civic and community groups; experts; representative from other cities and towns. Research and review other Charters. Hire consultants. Secure funding from town.

June & July: How should Framingham voters delegate the powers, duties and responsibilities of its legislative function? Research and outline legislative function. Solicit community input. Vote.

August & September: How should Framingham voters delegate the powers, duties and responsibilities of its executive function? Research and outline executive function. Solicit community input. Vote.

October & November: Research and outline governmental procedures, special and general laws, ethical guidelines, and transitional provisions. Draft report. Solicit community input. Vote.

December & January: Preview report with AG, DHCD and Framingham Town Counsel. Solicit community input. Vote. Submit Report to Selectmen, Town Clerk, Registrars of Voters.

February & March: Convene community educational forums throughout the community at various locations and in multiple languages on different days of the week and at various times. Distribute Report to Voters.

Consultant: I propose that we issue the attached RFP to hire a consultant to assist us with researching and drafting our report.

In addition to hiring an expert to assist us in researching and drafting our report, I suggest that we create the following sub committees comprised of three members, one of whom shall be designated chair, appointed by the Chair:

Communications: Janet Leombruno, Adam Blumer, Dennis Cardiff

Government Organizational Plan: Teri Banerjee, George King, Jason Smith

Transition: Dennis Cardiff, Dennis Giombetti, Janet Leombruno

Structure & Style: Adam Blumer, Valerie Mulvey, John Stefanini

Each of the sub-committees would be charged with facilitating research, community input, and public presentations to the full Commission for its consideration. Each sub-committee would present its purpose and goals to the full commission for its review and approval as we did with the Communications sub-committee before commencing its work.

I look forward to our discussion.

Attachment