

1. Pledge of allegiance
2. Role call – 7:04PM
3. All present
4. Consent of Agenda
  - a. Motion – Richard Fitzgerald
  - b. Second – David Whitney
  - c. 9-0
5. Review of 3-25-09 minutes
  - a. Correct the spelling error on line 25
  - b. Correct the header date
6. Motion to accept minutes with changes
  - a. Motion - Richard Fitzgerald
  - b. Second – David Whitney
  - c. 9-0
7. Donald Duffey addresses the commission - Conservation Commission
  - a. Passed out handout
  - b. He wants a clarification in the current charter regarding the Conservation Commission (see handout)
  - c. David Whitney believes the current text was an oversight
8. Paul Burns
  - a. Thanks Dr. Paist for the refreshments
  - b. Thanks all people who are in attendance
9. Richard Kaczmarczyk addresses the commission - DPW
  - a. Worked for town since 1974
  - b. Wasn't keen on the idea of a Town Council at first
  - c. He has seen significant efficiency in the last 5-6 years, especially regarding the budget

- d. Selectman made it difficult to make timely decisions
  - e. Would like to see 5 councilors instead of 9
  - f. Voters sometimes voted on emotion at town meetings
  - g. Town meeting could be controlled by small groups and friends
    - i. Charles Abbate – Confirms with Richard that he mostly deals with the Town Manager, not the Town Council
10. George Backus addresses the commission – Town Councilor
- a. Agrees with the previous statements made by the DPW representative
  - b. Town meetings weren't productive
  - c. Wants 5 council members instead of 9
11. Carl Bryant addresses the commission – Bondsville Water Dept.
- a. This review came to be because people didn't have a say
  - b. There are plenty of ways to address problems, like the Town Manager, etc.
  - c. Wants 7 councilors instead of 9
  - d. There is spirit and intent, the current Town Council gives ample time for public input
  - e. He has gotten positive results working with the Town Council
  - f. The council needs to look at the charter, their constitution, and make the things in it happen
12. Patricia Donovan addresses the commission – Town Clerk
- a. She agrees with the current number of Town Councilors, 7-9 should be the number
  - b. The four corners of Palmer wouldn't like to see district representation go away
13. Robert Frydryk addresses the commission – Palmer Police Chief
- a. He didn't vote for the change in government, but now could not imagine reverting back
  - b. There is now more accountability

- c. The Town manager is constantly making the town officials accountable
  - d. Town Meetings can be manipulated with a small number of people
  - e. The Town Council meets often and people are making them accountable
  - f. Wants to see the Town Council continue
14. Blake Lamothe addresses the commission
- a. Things need to move forward in the town
  - b. It was difficult to make a move with the selectman
  - c. The change to a Town Council is something that needed to be done
15. Gordon Christianson addresses the commission – Former Selectman
- a. He has been involved with town meetings for many years and is against going back to them
  - b. During the time of town meetings there was a 65 member finance committee
  - c. He was a selectman for 5 years and can say that they really have no expertise
  - d. The selectman met once a week for 2 hours, you can't manage a \$33 million budget that way
  - e. He wants to see the charter reviewed and changes made, but keep the present form of government
16. Linda Leduc addresses the commission – Town Planner
- a. She has been the Town Planner for three years
  - b. She has had issues addressed timely with the Town Council (zoning, development, etc.)
  - c. The council is elected but works for the Town Manager. There could be a potential for disconnect
17. Michael Marciniac addresses the commission – Planning Department Chairman
- a. Town Meetings are less responsive and change can take a long time
  - b. There is some disconnect between elected officials and the government

- c. The planner should work for the Town Manager and have connections with the Planning Board
- d. The role of the Town Planner has changed with the new charter
- e. Would like to see a change to the number of people being elected at a time
  - i. Richard Fitzgerald – Agrees with the points made. Maybe a change should be made to the Town Planner description in the charter
  - ii. Paul Wisnewski – The state mandates that a Planning Board be elected, same as the Town Clerk. Most other positions can be appointed or elected.
  - iii. Charles Abbate – The Town Planner doesn't work for the Planning Board
  - iv. David Whitney – Clarifies some of the intent of the charter..

18. John Sasur addresses the commission – Three Rivers Water Dept.

- a. He was one of the original members of the charter formation committee
- b. The 9 member board was chosen for several reasons. The four year term seemed best
- c. The 9 members replaced the Town Meeting. You can't compare the 3 selectman to the Town Council
- d. This form of government is in its infant stage and this is a learning curve
- e. There is a charter review every 5 years
- f. He wants to see a 9 member board remain
- g. The Town Council should not be doing administrative roles, this is the Town managers job.
- h. The Town Council meetings should be more formal. Good debate should be present, but orderly (submitted a copy of potential rules).
  - i. Charles Abbate – So the Town Council shouldn't question the Town Manager?
  - ii. The Town Manager should have an annual review
  - iii. Paul Burns - Disagrees to a point, the Town Manager should be questioned if an issue arises

- iv. George Backus – The Town Council does question the Town Manager
- v. David Whitney – Agrees with George Backus
  - 1. The council as a whole is the Town Managers boss, not any one member
- vi. Paul Wisnewski – Requests that submitted letters be put into the minutes.
- vii. Charles Abbate – The Town Manager has an awful lot of authority and that may be a problem

19. Alice Davey addresses the commission – Community Development Director

- a. Her department is totally grant funded
- b. There is more accountability lately, timeliness is critical
- c. The Town Council has been responsive

20. Paul Burns

- a. The letter previously received from Valerie Bernier was posted with our minutes on the town website
- b. The letter was released when it was requested

21. M-PACT update

- a. No changes or updates

22. Two letters were submitted to the commission and will be posted on the town website

23. Adjourn – 8:11PM

- a. Motion – Richard Fitzgerald
- b. Second – David Whitney
- c. 9-0