

**Cumberland County Charter Commission
3/05/09**

Meeting in Feeney Conference Room, Cumberland County Courthouse

Members Present:

Claude Morgan (co-chair), Kathleen Babeu, David Lunt, Richard Feeney, John Eder (late)

Members Absent: Meredith Burgess, Neil Jamieson, Lisa Villa (co/vice-chair), Steve Gorden

Others present: Elizabeth Trice, staff

Notes:

No quorum present, but is lawfully announced public meeting, so meeting will be informal workshop, no votes will be taken.

Oaths will be scanned, filed and sent to the state.

***Elizabeth will arrange for formal appointment certificates to be done with dedimus justice and commissioners.**

Meeting schedule: 6 persons responded that Wednesday March 25 6-8 will be next meeting, we will take up at the next meeting whether we can meet on 4th Wednesdays monthly.

***Elizabeth will ensure meeting announcements are sent out for March 25 meeting two weeks in advance.**

Mileage reimbursement forms.

Elizabeth will track down members not present tonight to reimburse for past meeting.

DVDs:

***Elizabeth will find out if South Portland is getting tapes**

***Kathleen will send contact info and mailing addresses for Falmouth, Cumberland, Yarmouth, Freeport.**

Town meetings are coming up very soon.

***Elizabeth will follow up with John Eder to see if he has created list of town meeting dates. David would like to see charter commission members speak during public comment section of board of selectmen's meetings before or instead of at town meetings. Board of selectmen's meeting are televised.**

Charter commission could be placed on agenda in the towns with councils.

Idea of speaking to editorial boards of papers. John Eder may want to do that.

Claude mentions that charter will want to address (among other things) representation: statute allows moving to 5 or 7 commissioners, and have discussion on strong manager form of gov't and whether some elected offices could be eliminated

Steve Gorden's draft mission:

The mission is to draft a document that describes the County's governance, its framework, structures and processes; that governance shall endorse the citizenry to request and receive the broadest of services reasonable, shall be dynamic and flexible enabling changes to be addressed through its political processes, shall be self-sustaining to the maximum allowed by the County's citizens, and shall be limited only by its citizens and their State and Federal Constitutions and laws.

Steve's hope was to keep the charter simple and flexible according to the needs of the region and organization.

***What is process for making small or large changes to charter once it is passed?
Elizabeth will try to find out.**

(John Eder arrives)

Group works on draft of mission statement:

- 1. The mission of the Cumberland County Charter Commission is to present to voters, on November 2, 2010, a document that defines the roles, structures and processes of regional government.**
- 2. That the Cumberland County Charter Commission is independent body elected by the voters.**
- 3. The charter commission seeks open and active public discussion about ways to improve and modernize county government.**
- 4. This charter shall enable residents to request and receive broad, cost-effective, and efficient services.**
- 5. Members of the charter commission believe that county government should be dynamic, flexible, transparent, responsive, and self-sustaining.**
- 6. We believe that the residents of Cumberland County would be best served with a form of regional government that is unique to the needs of the 28 constituent municipalities of the county.**
- 7. We believe the process of creating Cumberland County's first region-specific charter is a unique opportunity to shape the environment in which we live.**

Adjourned 5:55pm.