

Tiverton Charter Review Commission

ID #61

Proposal Request and Comment Form

Date: October 10, 2017	Name: Planning Board - Stuart Hardy, Chair
Connection to Tiverton:	<input type="checkbox"/> Registered Voter (Elector) <input type="checkbox"/> Resident <input type="checkbox"/> Property Owner <input type="checkbox"/> Business Owner and/or Work in Tiverton <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other: Official Town Charter Board
Proposal and/or Comment:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Comment <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Proposal
Short Title for Proposal:	Add Citation Merits for the Administrative Officer.
Contact Information:*	<p>May we contact you for questions or clarification?          Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No: <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Address: Tiverton Town Hall</p> <p>Phone number: 624-8213</p> <p>Email: <a href="mailto:planningboard@tiverton.ri.gov">planningboard@tiverton.ri.gov</a></p>

**Note:**  
 Please return form to Richard Rom, Secretary by e-mail to [TivertonCRC@cox.net](mailto:TivertonCRC@cox.net) or by mail or other delivery to:

Tiverton Charter Review Commission  
 Attention: Richard Rom, Secretary  
 c/o Tiverton Town Clerk  
 343 Highland Road  
 Tiverton, Rhode Island 02878

**\*Submitted forms will be considered a matter of public record and subject to public inspection.**

Proposal Request

Upon review of the current Tiverton Town Charter, I request that the Commission consider the following proposal to change the Town Charter:

Change Requested	Cite the role of the Administrative Officer (AO) to the Planning Board in the Charter, which would require new language because there is no reference to the AO.
Describe why the Requested Change is needed	The Administrative Officer of the Planning Department is a significant, state-mandated position that merits citation of the Charter.
Describe the effect of the Requested Change	The Charter will be updated to more accurately describe existing municipal governance.
(optional) List Charter sections effected by Requested Change or New Section	Add new section under Art. X, Sec. 1001 (a).

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Comment

Upon review of the current Tiverton Town Charter, I share the following comment:

Upon review of the current Charter, I share the following comments on behalf of the Planning Board:

All comments, proposals and recommendations contained in this document were approved by the Planning Board on October 3, 2017.

The current Charter needs to be undated to re4flect existing and proposed changes in the way the Planning Board is organized and functions.

**Submitted forms will be considered a matter of public record and subject to public inspection.**

Proposal Request and Comment Form

Date: Sept 15, 2017	Name: Denise G. Saurette
Connection to Tiverton:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Registered Voter (Elector) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Resident <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Property Owner <input type="checkbox"/> Business Owner and/or Work in Tiverton <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other: Town Treasurer
Proposal and/or Comment:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Comment <input type="checkbox"/> Proposal
Short Title for Proposal:	Duties and responsibilities of the Treasurer
Contact Information:*	May we contact you for questions or clarification? Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No: <input type="checkbox"/>  Address:  Phone number:  Email: treasurer@tiverton.ri.gov

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Proposal Request

Upon review of the current Tiverton Town Charter, I request that the Commission consider the following proposal to change the Town Charter:

<p>Change Requested</p>	<p>Section 602 of the Current Town Charter outlines the Duties &amp; Responsibilities of the Town Treasurer.</p> <p>#8 Serving as a non-voting member / liason for the Tiverton Police Pension Plan.</p> <p>#10 Remove Waste Water Commission &amp; Housing Authority.</p>
<p>Describe why the Requested Change is needed</p>	<p>#8 Voting members of the board have a fiduciary responsibility to the members of the plan, however the Treasurer has a fiduciary responsibility to the taxpayers. Serving as a voting member of the body creates a difficult fiduciary situation, and the role of the Treasurer should be limited to preparing and providing pension data to the actuary.</p> <p>#10 Waste Water Commission &amp; the Housing authority are separate and distinct entities from the Town of Tiverton. Overall #10 could use some clarification.</p>
<p>Describe the effect of the Requested Change</p>	<p>#8 Without a doubt, the Treasurer will be able to maintain fiduciary responsibility to the taxpayer.</p> <p>#10 Clarification purposes</p>
<p>(optional) List Charter sections effected by Requested Change or New Section</p>	

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Proposal Request and Comment Form

Date: 10/02/17	Name: Denise Saurette
Connection to Tiverton:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Registered Voter (Elector) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Resident <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Property Owner <input type="checkbox"/> Business Owner and/or Work in Tiverton <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other: Town Treasurer
Proposal and/or Comment:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Comment <input type="checkbox"/> Proposal
Short Title for Proposal:	
Contact Information:*	<p style="text-align: center;">May we contact you for questions or clarification?                  Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> No: <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Address:</p> <p>Phone number:</p> <p>Email: treasurer@tiverton.ri.gov</p>

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Comment

Upon review of the current Tiverton Town Charter, I share the following comment:

Consideration should be given to the following items:

Town Council term limit increase to a minimum of 4 years - staggered. (Similar to the Budget Committee)

Town Clerk and Town Treasurer are the only elected officials / Town Residents that serve as "Department Heads" and represent the taxpayer. While I believe the positions should remain as elected positions, I firmly believe that there should be a vetting process to ensure that candidates meet minimum qualifications prior to being placed on the ballot.

Alternate budgets submitted for the FTR should include appropriate detail documenting the proposed change, whether an increase or decrease, from the Budget Committee proposal.

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Proposal Request and Comment Form

Date: October 16, 2017	Name: Cecil Leonard
Connection to Tiverton:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Registered Voter (Elector) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Resident <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Property Owner <input type="checkbox"/> Business Owner and/or Work in Tiverton <input type="checkbox"/> Other:
Proposal and/or Comment:	<input type="checkbox"/> Comment <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Proposal
Short Title for Proposal:	Qualified elector signatures.
Contact Information:*	<p>May we contact you for questions or clarification?                  Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No: <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Address: 500 Neck RD</p> <p>Phone number: 624-3095</p> <p>Email:</p>

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Proposal Request

Upon review of the current Tiverton Town Charter, I request that the Commission consider the following proposal to change the Town Charter:

Change Requested	Increase alternate required budget petition signatures from 50 to 300.
Describe why the Requested Change is needed	This change will add emphasis to the importance of alternate budget proposals.
Describe the effect of the Requested Change	Will require that more signatures be gathered to qualify a alternate budget proposal to be placed on the ballot.
(optional) List Charter sections effected by Requested Change or New Section	Article III section (d) 3)

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Proposal Request and Comment Form

Date: October 16, 2017	Name: Cecil Leonard
Connection to Tiverton:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Registered Voter (Elector) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Resident <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Property Owner <input type="checkbox"/> Business Owner and/or Work in Tiverton <input type="checkbox"/> Other:
Proposal and/or Comment:	<input type="checkbox"/> Comment <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Proposal
Short Title for Proposal:	Preliminary budget (s) public hearing
Contact Information:*	<p>May we contact you for questions or clarification?                  Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No: <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Address: 500 Neck RD</p> <p>Phone number: 624-3095</p> <p>Email:</p>

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Proposal Request

Upon review of the current Tiverton Town Charter, I request that the Commission consider the following proposal to change the Town Charter:

<p>Change Requested</p>	<p>No later than two weeks before final budgets are due to the Budget Committee, the Budget committee shall hold a public hearing to allow comments from voters about the various preliminary budget proposals.</p>
<p>Describe why the Requested Change is needed</p>	<p>This change will insure that voters have a chance to voice their opinions about preliminary budget proposals before any final Budget Committee votes.</p>
<p>Describe the effect of the Requested Change</p>	<p>Budget Committee and Town officials will have benefit of public comments before final budgets are due.</p>
<p>(optional) List Charter sections effected by Requested Change or New Section</p>	<p>Article III section 301 (a)</p>

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Proposal Request and Comment Form

Date: ID #66	Name: Cecil Leonard
Connection to Tiverton:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Registered Voter (Elector) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Resident <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Property Owner <input type="checkbox"/> Business Owner and/or Work in Tiverton <input type="checkbox"/> Other:
Proposal and/or Comment:	<input type="checkbox"/> Comment <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Proposal
Short Title for Proposal:	Appointment proceedure
Contact Information:*	<p style="text-align: center;">May we contact you for questions or clarification?            Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No: <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Address: 500 Neck RD</p> <p>Phone number: 624-3095</p> <p>Email:</p>

**Note:**  
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Tiverton Charter Review Commission

ID #66

Proposal Request

Upon review of the current Tiverton Town Charter, I request that the Commission consider the following proposal to change the Town Charter:

Change Requested	In case of a vacancy in the membership of any elected committee or commission the Town Council shall appoint the person with the next highest number of votes, if that person agrees to being appointed, until the list of candidates is depleted. Once the candidate list is depleted the Town Council shall appoint from a list of applicants responding to a series of advertisements about the vacancy.
Describe why the Requested Change is needed	This change will insure that everyone who made the effort to seek election to a committee or commission will have an opportunity to serve on the body before a general applicant can be appointed.
Describe the effect of the Requested Change	Committee or commission membership will reflect the decision of the electors rather than four to seven Town Council members.
(optional) List Charter sections effected by Requested Change or New Section	Article II section 202, Article VII section 702, Article XI section 1101, Article XII section 1205 (a)

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Proposal Request and Comment Form

Date: October 16, 2017	Name: Cecil Leonard
Connection to Tiverton:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Registered Voter (Elector) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Resident <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Property Owner <input type="checkbox"/> Business Owner and/or Work in Tiverton <input type="checkbox"/> Other:
Proposal and/or Comment:	<input type="checkbox"/> Comment <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Proposal
Short Title for Proposal:	Protection against reprisal.
Contact Information:*	<p>May we contact you for questions or clarification?                  Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No: <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Address: 500 Neck RD</p> <p>Phone number: 624-3095</p> <p>Email:</p>

**Note:**  
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Proposal Request

Upon review of the current Tiverton Town Charter, I request that the Commission consider the following proposal to change the Town Charter:

<p>Change Requested</p>	<p>Add citizen volunteers to the section about protection against reprisal.</p>
<p>Describe why the Requested Change is needed</p>	<p>This change will give some protection to volunteers who serve on Town organizations.</p>
<p>Describe the effect of the Requested Change</p>	<p>This will help protect volunteers from attacks by Town officials when they carry out their duties.</p>
<p>(optional) List Charter sections effected by Requested Change or New Section</p>	

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Proposal Request and Comment Form

Date: 10/20/17	Name: Donna Cook
Connection to Tiverton:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Registered Voter (Elector) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Resident <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Property Owner <input type="checkbox"/> Business Owner and/or Work in Tiverton <input type="checkbox"/> Other:
Proposal and/or Comment:	<input type="checkbox"/> Comment <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Proposal
Short Title for Proposal:	Judge of Probate increase from 2 year to 4 year term
Contact Information:*	<p>May we contact you for questions or clarification?  Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Address: 192 Hilton Street</p> <p>Phone number: 401-624-8745</p> <p>Email: donna.j.cook@cox.net</p>

**Note:**

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Proposal Request

Upon review of the current Tiverton Town Charter, I request that the Commission consider the following proposal to change the Town Charter:

<p>Change Requested</p>	<p>Issue for consideration: Language to change the present term of 2 years for Probate Judge to a 4 year term.</p> <p>There shall be a Judge of Probate who shall be a qualified elector of the Town and member in good standing of the bar of the State of Rhode Island, engaged in active practice of law. The Judge of Probate shall be elected at the general election for four (4) year term pursuant to the provisions of the State Law and this Charter.</p>
<p>Describe why the Requested Change is needed</p>	<p>Reason for consideration: To give more stability to Probate Court by a longer term for the Judge of Probate</p>
<p>Describe the effect of the Requested Change</p>	<p>More stability for the court.</p>
<p>(optional) List Charter sections effected by Requested Change or New Section</p>	<p>Article VIII Town Officials and Offices, Section 804 Probate Court (a) Judge of Probate.</p>

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Proposal Request and Comment Form

Date: 10/20/17	Name: Donna Cook
Connection to Tiverton:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Registered Voter (Elector) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Resident <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Property Owner <input type="checkbox"/> Business Owner and/or Work in Tiverton <input type="checkbox"/> Other:
Proposal and/or Comment:	<input type="checkbox"/> Comment <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Proposal
Short Title for Proposal:	Municipal Court Judge change from appointed to elected
Contact Information:*	<p>May we contact you for questions or clarification?                  Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No: <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Address: 192 Hilton Street</p> <p>Phone number: 401-624-8745</p> <p>Email: donna.j.cook@cox.net</p>

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Proposal Request

Upon review of the current Tiverton Town Charter, I request that the Commission consider the following proposal to change the Town Charter:

<p>Change Requested</p>	<p>Issue for consideration: Language to ensure that the present system of appointing a Municipal Court Judge by the Town Council be changed to an elected position.</p> <p>There shall be a Municipal Court Judge who shall be a qualified elector of the Town and member in good standing of the bar of the State of Rhode Island, engaged in active practice of law. The Municipal Court Judge shall be elected at the general election for four (4) year term pursuant to the provisions of the State Law and this Charter.</p>
<p>Describe why the Requested Change is needed</p>	<p>Reason for consideration: Conflict of interest.</p> <p>Appointment of the Municipal Court Judge by the Town Council compromises the ability of the Judge to freely rule on Charter complaints filed by citizens against the government. The Judge also presides over adjudication of town ordinances passed by the Town Council which appoints the Municipal Judge at present.</p>
<p>Describe the effect of the Requested Change</p>	<p>The Municipal Judge being elected would mean he/she would serve by the consent of the people instead of beholding to the Town Council via appointment.</p>
<p>(optional) List Charter sections effected by Requested Change or New Section</p>	<p>Article VIII Town Officials and Offices, Section 805 Municipal Court (a) Municipal Court Judge</p>

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Tiverton Charter Review Commission

ID #70

Proposal Request and Comment Form

Date: 11/01/2017	Name: JAMES L. SPEARS
Connection to Tiverton:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Registered Voter (Elector) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Resident <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Property Owner <input type="checkbox"/> Business Owner and/or Work in Tiverton <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other: TIVERTON HISTORICAL COMMEMORATIVE COMMISSION
Proposal and/or Comment:	<input type="checkbox"/> Comment <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Proposal
Short Title for Proposal:	ALLOW EXPANDED ACCESS TO BOARD AND COMMISSION APPOINTMENT
Contact Information:*	<p>May we contact you for questions or clarification?                  Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No: <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Address: 494 WEST DEMELLO DR TIVERTON</p> <p>Phone number: (401) 624-6031</p> <p>Email: JIM.SPEARS@COX.NET</p>

Note:

Please return form to Richard Rom, Secretary by e-mail to TivertonCRC@cox.net or by mail or other delivery to.

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## Tiverton Charter Review Commission

Comment

Upon review of the current Tiverton Town Charter, I share the following comment:

THERE IS A PROBLEM WITH ATTRACTING NEW MEMBERS OF SOME COMMISSIONS, ALL OF WHICH ARE VOLUNTEER POSITIONS AND SERVE VERY USEFUL FUNCTIONS. ALL MEMBERS ARE APPOINTED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL FOLLOWING A VETTING PROCESS. CURRENTLY SECTION 1011, GENERAL QUALIFICATIONS HAS A REQUIREMENT THAT "MEMBERS OF BOARDS OR COMMISSIONS MUST BE ELECTORS OF THE TOWN OF TIVERTON".

A REVIEW OF THE SEVERAL SECTIONS DEFINING THE BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS INDICATES THAT EACH BOARD OR COMMISSION HAS ITS OWN WORDING CONCERNING RESIDENCE OR VOTING STATUS.

FOR EXAMPLE:

- THE PLANNING BOARD REQUIRES MEMBERS TO BE ELECTORS
- THE ARTS COMMITTEE REQUIRES MEMBERS TO BE RESIDENTS
- SEVERAL COMMISSIONS REQUIRING MEMBERS TO ONLY BE CONCERNED WITH THE AREA OF INTEREST TO THE COMMISSION.

IN THE CASE OF TIVERTON HISTORICAL CEMETERIES COMMISSION, THE REQUIREMENT IS ONLY TO SHOW "EXPERTISE AND INTEREST IN HISTORICAL CEMETERIES".

SECTION 1011 PRECLUDES PERSONS HAVING INTEREST & EXPERTISE IN THESE CEMETERIES WHO MAY BE RESIDENTS BUT NOT ELECTORS AND NON-RESIDENTS FROM SERVING.

Submitted forms will be considered a matter of public record and subject to public inspection.

November 1, 2017

Proposal Request

Upon review of the current Tiverton Town Charter, I request that the Commission consider the following proposal to change the Town Charter:

<p>Change Requested</p>	<p>DELETE THE REQUIREMENT FOR MEMBERS TO BE ELECTORS.</p> <p>OR</p> <p>ADD A STATEMENT THAT THE TOWN COUNCIL CAN WAIVE THIS REQUIREMENT FOR OTHERWISE QUALIFIED INDIVIDUALS</p>
<p>Describe why the Requested Change is needed</p>	<p>THE TIVERTON HISTORICAL CEMETERIES COMMISSION HAS 3 CURRENT MEMBERS WHERE 5 MEMBERS ARE STATED IN SECTION 1012 OF THE TOWN CHARTER.</p> <p>WE KNOW OF 3 INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE NOT ELECTORS BUT ARE HIGHLY QUALIFIED, KNOWLEDGEABLE AND HAVE DEEP CONNECTIONS TO TIVERTON. THESE INDIVIDUALS ARE PRECLUDED FROM MEMBERSHIP.</p>
<p>Describe the effect of the Requested Change</p>	<p>THIS CHANGE WILL ALLOW FOR APPOINTMENT OF QUALIFIED INDIVIDUALS WHO DO NOT HAPPEN TO BE ELECTORS.</p> <p>THE TOWN COUNCIL HAS THE FINAL SAY ON APPOINTMENT AND CAN REJECT INDIVIDUALS WHO DO NOT HAVE THE BEST INTERESTS IN THE TOWN OF TIVERTON</p>
<p>(optional) List Charter sections effected by Requested Change or New Section</p>	<p>ARTICLE X, BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS SECTION 1011, GENERAL QUALIFICATIONS</p>

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