

Correspondence received by the Concord Select Board
Week Ending – April 14, 2025

1. Tanya Gailus – 62 Prescott Road

Please Note: The Select Board Correspondence has been updated as of January 27, 2025. The letters posted here reflect the views and opinions of the author as recorded in the body of their email. Neither the Select Board nor Town staff have verified or reviewed the contents. The Select Board and the Town do not necessarily agree, condone, support or advocate the ideas expressed in these letters and have not verified any factual statements made in the letters.

From: tbarveyan <tbarveyan@yahoo.com>

To: Mary Hartman <mhartman@concordma.gov>; Mark Howell <markhowell@concordma.gov>; Terri Ackerman <tackerman@concordma.gov>; Wendy Rovelli <wrovelli@concordma.gov>; cmckennitt@concordma.gov <cmckennitt@concordma.gov>; Andrea Fountain <afountain@concordma.gov>; Shannon McAndrew <smcandrew@concordma.gov>

Cc: Paul Boehm <paulforsb@gmail.com>; Kerry Lafleur <klafleur@concordma.gov>; Megan Zammuto <mzammuto@concordma.gov>

Sent: Monday, April 14, 2025 at 07:53:54 AM EDT

Subject: Re: Procedure for drafting Charges and the CAC Charge including Article 23 of Town Meeting 2018

I forgot to add my address:

62 Prescott Road

Concord, MA

Thank you,

Tanya B. Gailus

On Monday, April 14, 2025 at 07:43:50 AM EDT, tbarveyan <tbarveyan@yahoo.com> wrote:

Dear Members of the Select Board,

There are two matters that I want to write about:

1) How Committee Charges have been prepared or revised over the last two years.

2) An important aspect of climate change mitigation that needs to be included in the CAC Charge- if not during your meeting today, soon- namely natural preservation, and the related adoption of Article 23 of Town Meeting 2018.

1) The Select Board traditionally discussed Committee Charges to be prepared or changed in a preliminary meeting, before assigning a Board member to come to the following meeting with a draft. That draft was then discussed again, within the framework of what was said before. Often it was revised one more time before a vote. This allowed for full Select Board input from the beginning (which is how it should be, IMO) and also for ample time for public input.

During the recent two years, presumably as an effort for efficiency started by the previous Chair, one Select Board member is preparing a draft and bringing it for a vote immediately. Usually if it is an existing Committee's Charge revision, the Chair(s) is are consulted. This

really shortchanges input from full Select Board and public input. Plus, it is not existing members or Chairs of committees that should decide the Charge. Rather, it is the Select Board (in most cases) that decides the Charge and *then* the members are assigned accordingly.

I hope that from now on the more inclusive and prudent older approach is adopted. In a sense, that is more efficient, too, because it might lessen the need for future re-writes.

2) The Climate Action Committee Charge needs to include not only the findings and resolutions of Article 51 of Town Meeting 2017, but also those of Article 23 of Town Meeting 2018:

<https://concordma.gov/DocumentCenter/View/13451/2018-Warrant-as-printed-in-the-FCR?bidId=#page=21>

<<https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fconcordma.gov%2FDocumentCenter%2FView%2F13451%2F2018-Warrant-as-printed-in-the-FCR%3FbidId%3D%23page%3D21&data=05%7C02%7Cafountain%40concordma.gov%7C4ff6de4367a04249009508dd7b878a2f%7Cd5259e2c19154f4588b612488019ce3b%7C0%7C0%7C638802544266489778%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiIwLjAuMDAwMCIsIlAiOiJXaW4zMilslkFOljoiTWFpbCIsIldUIjoyfQ%3D%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=vno767i3b%2FKrepRkwtGBYnY3kPj6j%2F%2BnOnXE3Ex13S0%3D&reserved=0>>

This Article states:

"...take action to maintain and regenerate our natural environment in order to protect our community and mitigate and build resilience to climate disruption"

This Article was passed by a "Greater than Majority Vote"

<https://concordma.gov/2042/2018-Town-Meeting-Handouts-and-Presentat>

<<https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fconcordma.gov%2F2042%2F2018-Town-Meeting-Handouts-and-Presentat&data=05%7C02%7Cafountain%40concordma.gov%7C4ff6de4367a04249009508dd7b878a2f%7Cd5259e2c19154f4588b612488019ce3b%7C0%7C0%7C638802544266512886%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiIwLjAuMDAwMCIsIlAiOiJXaW4zMilslkFOljoiTWFpbCIsIldUIjoyfQ%3D%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=289TQ7db2DLPBWJllpifSngliWq8XeOfBbZWfe%2BISNA%3D&reserved=0>>

Article 23 has been often ignored and deserves more respect. Old and newer wisdom is aware of the importance of the protection and enhancement of natural resources in making our environment a healthier, cleaner, and happier one for us all.

Here is one recent article about forests and climate change:

Conserving Massachusetts' Family Forests

<<https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.umass.edu>

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<https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.umass.edu%2Fagriculture-food-environment%2Fnews-events%2Fhighlights%2Fconserving-massachusetts-family-forests&data=05%7C02%7Cafountain%40concordma.gov%7C4ff6de4367a04249009508dd7b878a2f%7Cd5259e2c19154f4588b612488019ce3b%7C0%7C0%7C638802544266539515%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiIwLjAuMDAwMCIsIlAiOiJXaW4zMilslkFOljoiTWFpbCIsIldUIjoyfQ%3D%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=x%2FrqENdwxgAZJTWODYSu9ZVdaZ8IDeeyBLMwZ04Kfuc%3D&reserved=0>

Conserving Massachusetts' Family Forests

Like Robert Frost's character in "Stopping by the Woods on a Snowy Evening," Paul Catanzaro, extension associate...

I hope that in the near future, and especially with loss of a full time Sustainability Director, the Charge of the CAC will be revised to strengthen this provision- and not only by consulting existing membership, which is appointed based on the earlier Charge.

Thank you for your consideration,

Tanya B. Gailus

p.s. Newly elected Select Board member Paul Boehm is CC'd on this letter with their campaign email, which I believe is not a "private" email, therefore hopefully need not prevent this letter from being posted. I do not believe Mr. Boehm has a governmental email yet.