

Town of Bridgewater **Charter Review Committee**

August 12, 2026

7:00 PM

Academy Building

66 Central Square

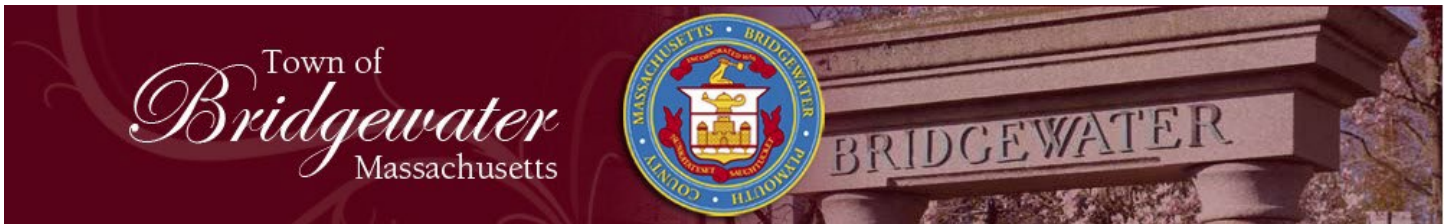
2nd Floor

Room 201a

and via Zoom: <https://us06web.zoom.us/jc/86305969366>

MEETING AGENDA

- A. Call to Order**
- B. Approval of Meeting Minutes**
 - a) June 24, 2026 Charter Review Committee Meeting Minutes
- C. Public Comment**
- D. Items for Discussion**
 - a) Community Conversations: Lynsy Marshall & Scott Pitta
 - b) Identification of Key Stakeholders: Brad McKinnon and Eric Dias
 - c) Charter Review Committee Resident Survey: James Walsh and Jean DiBattista
 - d) Review of August 12th Charter Review Forum
- E. Next Steps**
 - a) Charter Review Timeline
- F. Adjournment**
- G. Public Comment**



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MEETING MINUTES

Call to Order

Charter Review Committee Co-Chair Eric Dias called the meeting to order at 7:00pm. The meeting took place in Conference Room 201A and via Zoom.

Charter Review Committee members present:

Eric Dias, Scott Pitta, Jean DiBattista, Ed Ivaldi, Lynsy Marshall, James Walsh and Brad McKinnon.

Charter Review Committee member absent:

Scott Pitta

Approval of Meeting Minutes

a) June 24, 2026 Charter Review Committee Meeting Minutes

Mr. Ivaldi made a motion to approve the June 24, 2026 meeting minutes. This was duly seconded by Ms. DiBattista.

A roll-call vote was taken with the results as follows: Dias – Yea; Pitta – Absent; DiBattista – Yea; Ivaldi – Yea; Marshall – Yea; Walsh -Yea; McKinnon – Yea.

Motion Passed: 6-0

Public Comment

- Councilor Linde thanked the Charter Review Committee for doing the forum.
- Janet Hanson hopes that Town Council takes the CRC recommendations in a timely manner and not like in the past.

Items for Discussion

a) Community Conversations: Lynsy Marshall & Scott Pitta

Ms. Marshall made a motion to take a) and d) together as a group. This was duly seconded by Mr. McKinnon.

A roll-call vote was taken with the results as follows: Dias – Yea; Pitta – Absent; DiBattista – Yea; Ivaldi – Yea; Marshall – Yea; Walsh -Yea; McKinnon – Yea.

Motion Passed: 6-0

Ms. Marshall gave an update on the public forum noting that the first one was held today at the Senior Center, the next one will be on 8/24 at the Library and then on 9/12 in Council Chambers. 13 people and 4 councilors attended the forum held today.

Ms. Marshall asked that all meetings, meeting minutes and forums be added to the CRC Link on the Town webpage.

Mr. Dias and Mr. Ivaldi both noted more advanced notice needs to be done and communication is an issue.

Ms. Marshall noted that the 8/24 meeting will be pushed using several avenues on Wednesday and then again on the morning of 8/24.

- b) Identification of Key Stakeholders: Brad McKinnon and Eric Dias
Mr. Dias discussed how the stakeholders and questions were developed.

Mr. Ivaldi made a motion to revise the question to read “do you feel the town charter is serving the town well”. This was duly seconded by Ms. Marshall.

Mr. Ivaldi noted that some of the stakeholders know what the Charter is. *After some discussion, Mr. Ivaldi withdrew his motion.*

Ms. Marshall made a motion to amend the question to read “do you feel that current charter is serving the town appropriately”. This was duly seconded by Mr. Ivaldi.

A roll-call vote was taken with the results as follows: Dias – Yea; Pitta – Absent; DiBattista – Yea; Ivaldi – Yea; Marshall – Yea; Walsh -Yea; McKinnon – Yea.
Motion Passed: 6-0

Mr. Ivaldi made a motion to keep the question as worth having. This was duly seconded by Ms. Marshall.

A roll-call vote was taken with the results as follows: Dias – Yea; Pitta – Absent; DiBattista – Yea; Ivaldi – Yea; Marshall – Yea; Walsh -Yea; McKinnon – Yea.
Motion Passed: 6-0

Mr. Ivaldi made a motion to add new question #1 “how familiar are you with the Bridgewater Town Charter?”. This was duly seconded by Mr. McKinnon.

A roll-call vote was taken with the results as follows: Dias – Yea; Pitta – Absent; DiBattista – Yea; Ivaldi – Yea; Marshall – Yea; Walsh -Yea; McKinnon – Yea.
Motion Passed: 6-0

Mr. Ivaldi made a motion to keep question #3 as written. This was duly seconded by Ms. DiBattista.

A roll-call vote was taken with the results as follows: Dias – Yea; Pitta – Absent; DiBattista – Yea; Ivaldi – Yea; Marshall – Yea; Walsh -Yea; McKinnon – Yea.
Motion Passed: 6-0

Mr. Dias read question #4: “do you feel nine members of the Town Council is too many or too few?”

Ms. DiBattista made a motion to add “just right” between too many and too few. This was duly seconded by Ms. Marshall.

A roll-call vote was taken with the results as follows: Dias – Yea; Pitta – Absent; DiBattista – Yea; Ivaldi – Yea; Marshall – Yea; Walsh -Yea; McKinnon – Yea.

Motion Passed: 6-0

Mr. Dias read question #5: “do you feel we should maintain the councilor split of 6 at-large and 3 district or would 6 district and 3 at-large be preferable?”

Mr. Ivaldi made a motion to remove “or would 6 district and 3 at-large be preferable”. This was duly seconded by Ms. Marshall.

Ms. DiBattista suggested adding “ye, no or would you propose an alternative structure”.

Mr. Walsh suggested “do you feel we should maintain the current town councilor split of 6 at-large councilors and 3 district councilors or would you propose a different structure”.

Mr. Ivaldi rescinded his motion.

Mr. Walsh made a motion to change question #5 to read: “do you feel we should maintain the current town councilor split of 6 at-large councilors and 3 district councilors or would you propose a different structure”. This was duly seconded by Mr. McKinnon.

A roll-call vote was taken with the results as follows: Dias – Yea; Pitta – Absent; DiBattista – Yea; Ivaldi – Yea; Marshall – Yea; Walsh -Yea; McKinnon – Yea.

Motion Passed: 6-0

Mr. Dias read question #6: “how do you think we can improve communication between residents and the town government?”.

Mr. Ivaldi made a motion to split into two questions: #6 “the Town Council” and then #7 “Town Manager and personnel”. This was duly seconded by Mr. McKinnon.

A roll-call vote was taken with the results as follows: Dias – Yea; Pitta – Absent; DiBattista – Yea; Ivaldi – Yea; Marshall – Yea; Walsh -Yea; McKinnon – Yea.

Motion Passed: 6-0

Mr. Dias read question #8: “do you feel in general residents understand the purpose of the charter”. Noting that the Charter should be a separate document from the Admin Code.

Mr. Ivaldi made a motion to strike the question which was duly seconded by Ms. Marshall.

A roll-call vote was taken with the results as follows: Dias – Yea; Pitta – Absent; DiBattista – Yea; Ivaldi – Yea; Marshall – Yea; Walsh -Yea; McKinnon – Yea.

Motion Passed: 6-0

Mr. Dias read new question #8: “what could we change to make communication throughout the whole government to flow better?”

Ms. DiBattista made a motion to keep new question #8 as written. This was duly seconded by Mr. Ivaldi.

A roll-call vote was taken with the results as follows: Dias – Yea; Pitta – Absent; DiBattista – Yea; Ivaldi – Yea; Marshall – Yea; Walsh -Yea; McKinnon – Yea.
Motion Passed: 6-0

Mr. Dias read question #9: “what are the pros/cons of being labeled as a town vs city in the Charter?”

Ms. Marshall noted that at the last meeting this was voted to strike and Mr. McKinnon responded that he added it back because the last charter review committee made a recommendation.

Mr. Dias made a motion to change the question to read “are you aware of any impacts to your department responsibilities with Bridgewater being labeled a town vs a city in the Charter?”. This was duly seconded by Mr. Walsh.

A roll-call vote was taken with the results as follows: Dias – Yea; Pitta – Absent; DiBattista – Yea; Ivaldi – Yea; Marshall – Yea; Walsh -Yea; McKinnon – Yea.
Motion Passed: 6-0

Mr. Dias read off the names of the people to interview which included: Town Manager, Assistant Town Manager, Committee Clerk, Town Council Clerk, Town Clerk, Police and Fire Chief, Finance Department, Water Superintendent, HR Director, Building Commissioner, Councilors, Library Trustees, CED Department, Committee Chairs (Planning Board, ZBA, ConCom, CPC and Finance).

Mr. McKinnon asked to add Parks & Recreation.

Mr. Ivaldi made a motion for Mr. McKinnon and Mr. Dias to go forward with the interviews. This was duly seconded by Ms. DiBattista.

A roll-call vote was taken with the results as follows: Dias – Yea; Pitta – Absent; DiBattista – Yea; Ivaldi – Yea; Marshall – Yea; Walsh -Yea; McKinnon – Yea.
Motion Passed: 6-0

- c) Charter Review Committee Resident Survey: James Walsh and Jean DiBattista
Mr. Walsh went line by line on survey questions and discussion followed on each.

Section 1:

Mr. Walsh made a motion to keep Section 1, which was duly seconded by Mr. Dias.

A roll-call vote was taken with the results as follows: Dias – Yea; Pitta – Absent; DiBattista – Yea; Ivaldi – Yea; Marshall – Yea; Walsh -Yea; McKinnon – Yea.
Motion Passed: 6-0

Section 2:

Mr. Dias made a motion to keep Section 2 as written. This was duly seconded by Mr. Ivaldi.

A roll-call vote was taken with the results as follows: Dias – Yea; Pitta – Absent; DiBattista – Yea; Ivaldi – Yea; Marshall – Yea; Walsh -Yea; McKinnon – Yea.

Motion Passed: 6-0

Section 3 Question 2:

Ms. Marshall made a motion to approve Section 3, question 2 as written. This was duly seconded by Mr. Ivaldi.

A roll-call vote was taken with the results as follows: Dias – Yea; Pitta – Absent; DiBattista – Yea; Ivaldi – Yea; Marshall – Yea; Walsh -Yea; McKinnon – Yea.

Motion Passed: 6-0

Section 3 Question 3:

Mr. Ivaldi made a motion to approve as written. This was duly seconded by Ms. Marshall.

A roll-call vote was taken with the results as follows: Dias – Yea; Pitta – Absent; DiBattista – Yea; Ivaldi – Yea; Marshall – Yea; Walsh -Yea; McKinnon – Yea.

Motion Passed: 6-0

Section 3 Question 4:

Mr. McKinnon made a motion to approve as written. This was duly seconded by Mr. Dias.

A roll-call vote was taken with the results as follows: Dias – Yea; Pitta – Absent; DiBattista – Yea; Ivaldi – Yea; Marshall – Yea; Walsh -Yea; McKinnon – Yea.

Motion Passed: 6-0

Section 4 Question 5:

Mr. McKinnon made a motion to approve as written. This was duly seconded by Mr. Ivaldi.

Mr. Dias asked what would a major town decision be and Ms. DiBattista noted the level of resident interest.

A roll-call vote was taken with the results as follows: Dias – Yea; Pitta – Absent; DiBattista – Yea; Ivaldi – Yea; Marshall – Yea; Walsh -Yea; McKinnon – Yea.

Motion Passed: 6-0

Section 4 Question 6:

Mr. Dias noted his only concern is most will answer yes and there will be many different thoughts,

Ms. DiBattista noted added open text on this question so people could do an open response.

Ms. DiBattista made a motion to leave question as is and proceed. This was duly seconded by Mr. McKinnon.

A roll-call vote was taken with the results as follows: Dias – Yea; Pitta – Absent; DiBattista – Yea; Ivaldi – Yea; Marshall – Yea; Walsh -Yea; McKinnon – Yea.

Motion Passed: 6-0

Section 4 Question 7:

Mr. Walsh noted that the goal was to understand how familiar residents are with the participation mechanisms.

Mr. Ivaldi made a motion to approve as written. This was duly seconded by Ms. Marshall.

A roll-call vote was taken with the results as follows: Dias – Yea; Pitta – Absent; DiBattista – Yea; Ivaldi – Yea; Marshall – Yea; Walsh -Yea; McKinnon – Yea.

Motion Passed: 6-0

Section 4 Question 8:

Mr. Ivaldi made a motion to approve question with Mr. McKinnons amendment to add “in the charter” after mechanisms. This was duly seconded by Ms. Marshall.

A roll-call vote was taken with the results as follows: Dias – Yea; Pitta – Absent; DiBattista – Yea; Ivaldi – Yea; Marshall – Yea; Walsh -Yea; McKinnon – Yea.

Motion Passed: 6-0

Mr. Walsh made a motion to change response scale to “1 – not likely at all, to 10 very likely”. This was duly seconded by Mr. Dias.

After some discussion, Mr. Walsh withdrew his motion.

Mr. Walsh made a motion to change response choices to “1 not likely at all” to “5 very likely” then text. This was duly seconded by Mr. Ivaldi.

A roll-call vote was taken with the results as follows: Dias – Yea; Pitta – Absent; DiBattista – Yea; Ivaldi – Yea; Marshall – Yea; Walsh -Yea; McKinnon – Yea.

Motion Passed: 6-0

Section 4 Question 9:

Ms. DiBattista noted the recent recall amendment that was approved by the council and Mr. Ivaldi responded that it must be approved by the voters in April so this question might be premature.

Ms. DiBattista noted that this could be a separate add to the charter, new recall provision based on no confidence.

Mr. Dias made a motion to change to read “should the charter contain a recall provision based upon a no confidence vote”? This was duly seconded by Mr. Ivaldi.

Mr. Marshall noted that with this no confidence vote, it could be used based on an unpopular opinion.

Ms. DiBattista noted this mechanism is pretty complex, you put in provisions for the no confidence.

A roll-call vote was taken with the results as follows: Dias – Yea; Pitta – Absent; DiBattista – Yea; Ivaldi – Yea; Marshall – Yea; Walsh -Yea; McKinnon – Yea.
Motion Passed: 6-0

Mr. Walsh made a motion to strike wording in context shown to respondent line. This was duly seconded by Mr. Ivaldi.

A roll-call vote was taken with the results as follows: Dias – Yea; Pitta – Absent; DiBattista – Yea; Ivaldi – Yea; Marshall – Yea; Walsh -Yea; McKinnon – Yea.
Motion Passed: 6-0

Ms. DiBattista made a motion to add “for elected officials” after the word “provision” and before the word “based”. This was duly seconded by Mr. Ivaldi.

A roll-call vote was taken with the results as follows: Dias – Yea; Pitta – Absent; DiBattista – Yea; Ivaldi – Yea; Marshall – Yea; Walsh -Yea; McKinnon – Yea.
Motion Passed: 6-0

Section 5 Question 10:

Mr. Ivaldi made a motion to approve as written. This was duly seconded by Mr. Dias.

A roll-call vote was taken with the results as follows: Dias – Yea; Pitta – Absent; DiBattista – Yea; Ivaldi – Yea; Marshall – Yea; Walsh -Yea; McKinnon – Yea.
Motion Passed: 6-0

Section 5 Question 11:

Mr. Dias made a motion to approve as written. This was duly seconded by Ms. DiBattista.

A roll-call vote was taken with the results as follows: Dias – Yea; Pitta – Absent; DiBattista – Yea; Ivaldi – Yea; Marshall – Yea; Walsh -Yea; McKinnon – Yea.
Motion Passed: 6-0

Section 6:

Mr. Dias made a motion to keep as is which was duly seconded by Ms. DiBattista.

Ms. Marshall noted that it needed better wording.

Mr. Dias withdrew his previous motion and made a new motion to reword question #10 “do you think that Bridgewater’s form of government most effectively serves town residents?”. This was duly seconded by Ms. Marshall.

Section 5 Question 13 and 14:

Ms. DiBattista noted that question #13 is asking what can be improved and #14 is what can be preserved.

Mr. Dias made a motion to keep questions #13 and #14 as is. This was seconded by Mr. McKinnon.

A roll-call vote was taken with the results as follows: Dias – Yea; Pitta – Absent; DiBattista – Yea; Ivaldi – Yea; Marshall – Yea; Walsh -Yea; McKinnon – Yea.
Motion Passed: 6-0

Ms. DiBattista made a motion to change response type to “single choice with text” and response choices to “yes/no/no opinion, text” on Question #12. This was duly seconded by Mr. Ivaldi.

A roll-call vote was taken with the results as follows: Dias – Yea; Pitta – Absent; DiBattista – Yea; Ivaldi – Yea; Marshall – Yea; Walsh -Yea; McKinnon – Yea.
Motion Passed: 6-0

Ms. Marshall made a motion to add “no opinion” to response choices on Question #4. This was duly seconded by Mr. Dias.

A roll-call vote was taken with the results as follows: Dias – Yea; Pitta – Absent; DiBattista – Yea; Ivaldi – Yea; Marshall – Yea; Walsh -Yea; McKinnon – Yea.
Motion Passed: 6-0

Mr. Dias noted that the next steps would be to finalize in google and distribute.

Mr. Walsh noted that will send an update to the members and get into google forms. Will then send a link to Council clerk and Town Clerk to blast.

Mr. Dias made a motion that changes made tonight are good and Mr. Walsh will move forward with finalization and distribution as discussed. This was duly seconded by Mr. McKinnon.

A roll-call vote was taken with the results as follows: Dias – Yea; Pitta – Absent; DiBattista – Yea; Ivaldi – Yea; Marshall – Yea; Walsh -Yea; McKinnon – Yea.
Motion Passed: 6-0

Mr. Dias made a motion to strike being able to be anonymous by completing the survey. This was duly seconded by Mr. Ivaldi.

A roll-call vote was taken with the results as follows: Dias – Yea; Pitta – Absent; DiBattista – Yea; Ivaldi – Yea; Marshall – Yea; Walsh -Yea; McKinnon – Yea.
Motion Passed: 6-0

- d) Review of August 12th Charter Review Forum
Discussed in a) above.

Next Steps

- a) Charter Review Timeline
Mr. Dias noted that the Stakeholder interviews and survey should be back by the end of September. Then crunch the data in October and revisions to the Charter from November to May.

Ms. Marshall noted that they could meet once in October after everyone crunches the data.

Mr. Dias noted that 8/26 will be a check-in meeting.

Public Comment

- Janet Hanson, Pleasant Street: noted that the State allows city forms of government to be called Town and asked if there was a way to separate the Charter from the Code.

Adjournment

Ms. DiBattista made a motion to adjourn, which was duly seconded by Mr. Ivaldi.

A roll-call vote was taken with the results as follows: Dias – Yea; Pitta – Absent; DiBattista – Yea; Ivaldi – Yea; Marshall – Yea; Walsh -Yea; McKinnon – Yea.

Motion Passed: 6-0

Meeting adjourned at 9:46pm.

The Charter Review Committee assembled voted, at their meeting on Wednesday, September 16, 2026, to approve the aforementioned minutes, as submitted, by a vote of 7-0.