

November 10, 2009  
28 Strong St.  
Newburyport, MA

Dear Fellow Commissioners,

I am sorry that I am not able to join with you today in our first meeting. I am sure it will be easier for all of us once we have established a regular meeting schedule.

I have several requests to convey since I can not be there myself. They are:

- 1) that you elect only temporary officers of the commission until we all have a chance to get to know one another better. I believe it would also be wiser to elect permanent officers in a regularly scheduled meeting
- 2) that, if you choose to adopt Robert's Rules of Order, you specify Roberts Rules of Order Newly Revised in Brief, 10th edition (which I believe is the most current). The city council uses the full Newly Revised version as its standard, and I believe that the 'in Brief' version will be more than enough for our needs. Also it has the advantages of being only 200 pages long (as opposed to 750 pages for the full version) and costs about \$10 less. (If you want, you could cite the full version as the source for resolution of any questions not fully addressed in the Brief version).
- 3) that we seek active participation from others in the community. As commissioners, we are the only ones empowered to vote on key issues, but otherwise I believe that we are free to engage whatever assistance we choose. For example, other excellent people ran for the office of commissioner and did not get enough votes. If we choose, we can invite them and others to have important roles in the process.
- 4) that we consider choosing a person who is not a commissioner as clerk. This works well for the city council, who has the city clerk. The benefit for us is that it would free a commissioner to participate more fully in deliberations.
- 5) that we consider modifications to whatever basic rules of process and conduct that we adopt for the commission. This obviously needs to wait until after we select rules for ourselves, but for example I believe that we should at least consider our needs for quorums under different circumstances, and perhaps for where pluralities, majorities, and super majorities would be required in votes.

I look forward to working with you on this important effort.

Sincerely,



Jim Stiles