Charter Commission Feedback Session – Comment Form *Thanks!*

Like It?			
Yes	No	Not Sure	Charter Component (use space below to comment/suggest improvements)
X			**13 member Town Council** – 10 precinct representatives (2-year term), 3 at-large (4-year term) *but 7-9 members enough*
X			**Mayor** – elected at-large (4-year term) *But thru ranked choice*
X			**Neighborhood Meetings with Councilors**, at least quarterly, open to all residents
X			**Civic Engagement Officer** (helps residents learn about opportunities to participate, and government to communicate better to residents) *Encourge diversity on boards !*
X			**Annual Public Forums on budget, master plan, and schools**
		X	**Annual State-of-the-Town Address** by mayor *But councillors should speak too*
X			**Monthly Update from Mayor to Residents** (via email, web post, news column, etc.)
X			**Master Plan Adoption by Town Council**, with citizen participation
X			**"Participatory Budgeting"** (residents suggest and vote on projects to fund through the capital budget, as in Cambridge)
X			**Citizen Petition** to Town Council – Council action discretionary
X			**Group Petition** to Town Council – Council action required, with 50 signatures

| Like It? | | | |
Yes	No	Not Sure	Charter Component (use space below to comment/suggest improvements)
	X		**Citizen Initiative** – force town-wide vote on citizen proposal, with signatures from 5% of registered voters
	X		**Citizen Veto** – force town-wide vote on whether to overturn Town Council vote, with signatures from 5% of registered voters
	X		**Citizen Recall** of Elected Officials – with 15% of registered voters; no sooner than 9 months after elected
X			**Term Limits** on Elected Officials (tell us what limits you prefer, if any)
X			**Public Campaign Supports** – provide resources (webpage, newspaper space, etc.) to make it easier for candidates to get noticed without big money; publicize donors
		X	**Chief Administrative Officer** (senior level) **or Chief of Staff** (less senior) to provide professional management support for mayor
X			**Runoff Elections or "Ranked-Choice Voting"** to ensure majority vote for elected officials
X			**Early Voting** offered for all local elections
X			**Voting by Mail** offered for all local elections
			[Your idea here]
			[Your idea here]

Send additional ideas/comments to the Charter Commission at charter@amherstma.gov

Commission:
Divide presentation among members just sitting there.
Not just Andy!

Charter Commission Feedback Session – Comment Form

Like It?			
Yes	No	Not Sure	**Charter Component** (use space below to comment/suggest improvements)
✓			**13 member Town Council** – 10 precinct representatives (2-year term), 3 at-large (4-year term) ?
✓			**Mayor** – elected at-large (4-year term)
✓			**Neighborhood Meetings with Councilors**, at least quarterly, open to all residents
✓			**Civic Engagement Officer** (helps residents learn about opportunities to participate, and government to communicate better to residents)
✓			**Annual Public Forums on budget, master plan, and schools**
✓			**Annual State-of-the-Town Address** by mayor
✓			**Monthly Update from Mayor to Residents** (via email, web post, news column, etc.)
✓			**Master Plan Adoption by Town Council**, with citizen participation
		✓	**"Participatory Budgeting"** (residents suggest and vote on projects to fund through the capital budget, as in Cambridge) _
		✓	**Citizen Petition** to Town Council – Council action discretionary
		✓	**Group Petition** to Town Council – Council action required, with 50 signatures

	Like It?		Charter Component (use space below to comment/suggest improvements)
Yes	No	Not Sure	
		✓	**Citizen Initiative** – force town-wide vote on citizen proposal, with signatures from 5% of registered voters
		✓	**Citizen Veto** – force town-wide vote on whether to overturn Town Council vote, with signatures from 5% of registered voters
		✓	**Citizen Recall** of Elected Officials – with 15% of registered voters; no sooner than 9 months after elected
		✓	**Term Limits** on Elected Officials (tell us what limits you prefer, if any)
		✓	**Public Campaign Supports** – provide resources (webpage, newspaper space, etc.) to make it easier for candidates to get noticed without big money; publicize donors
✓		✓	**Chief Administrative Officer** (senior level) **or Chief of Staff** (less senior) to provide professional management support for mayor — Could be positive
✓			**Runoff Elections or "Ranked-Choice Voting"** to ensure majority vote for elected officials
✓		✓	**Early Voting** offered for all local elections
✓			**Voting by Mail** offered for all local elections
			[Your idea here] Adam Lussier
			[Your idea here]

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Charter Commission Feedback Session – Comment Form

Like It?			
Yes	**No**	**Not Sure**	**Charter Component** (use space below to comment/suggest improvements)
✓			**13 member Town Council** – 10 precinct representatives (2-year term), 3 at-large (4-year term)
✓			**Mayor** – elected at-large (4-year term) I like the idea that the mayor would oversee the school committee.
✓			**Neighborhood Meetings with Councilors**, at least quarterly, open to all residents
✓			**Civic Engagement Officer** (helps residents learn about opportunities to participate, and government to communicate better to residents)
✓			**Annual Public Forums on budget, master plan, and schools**
✓			**Annual State-of-the-Town Address** by mayor
✓			**Monthly Update from Mayor to Residents** (via email, web post, news column, etc.)
✓			**Master Plan Adoption by Town Council**, with citizen participation
	✓		**"Participatory Budgeting"** (residents suggest and vote on projects to fund through the capital budget, as in Cambridge)
✓			**Citizen Petition** to Town Council – Council action discretionary
✓			**Group Petition** to Town Council – Council action required, with 50 signatures

Like It?			Charter Component (use space below to comment/suggest improvements)
Yes	**No**	**Not Sure**	
	✓		**Citizen Initiative** – force town-wide vote on citizen proposal, with signatures from 5% of registered voters 5% is too low.
	✓		**Citizen Veto** – force town-wide vote on whether to overturn Town Council vote, with signatures from 5% of registered voters 5% is too low.
	✓		**Citizen Recall** of Elected Officials – with 15% of registered voters; no sooner than 9 months after elected 15% is too low.
	✓		**Term Limits** on Elected Officials (tell us what limits you prefer, if any)
✓			**Public Campaign Supports** – provide resources (webpage, newspaper space, etc.) to make it easier for candidates to get noticed without big money; publicize donors
✓			**Chief Administrative Officer** (senior level) **or Chief of Staff** (less senior) to provide professional management support for mayor
✓			**Runoff Elections or "Ranked-Choice Voting"** to ensure majority vote for elected officials
✓			**Early Voting** offered for all local elections
✓			**Voting by Mail** offered for all local elections
			[Your idea here] The school committee has to have some oversight by an outside source —
			[Your idea here] Whether it is the mayor or not. They are as non-functional as Town meeting.

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Colleges should make a larger contribution as in Cambridge. In that city, Harvard and M.I.T. pay taxes on property

Charter Commission Feedback Session – Comment Form

Like It?			
Yes	**No**	**Not Sure**	**Charter Component** (use space below to comment/suggest improvements) *what is role of staff with regard to advising BOARDS*
	X		**13 member Town Council** – 10 precinct representatives (2-year term), 3 at-large (4-year term) *No checks nor balances* *where does policy come from?* *what if taxpayers disagree* *too much concentration of power — too autocratic*
	X		**Mayor** – elected at-large (4-year term) *No provision for his management abilities or role in managing town employees*
X			**Neighborhood Meetings with Councilors**, at least quarterly, open to all residents *Select Board can do this now) but they don't care about preserving Neighborhoods*
	X		**Civic Engagement Officer** (helps residents learn about opportunities to participate, and government to communicate better to residents) *waste of my tax dollars*
X			**Annual Public Forums on budget, master plan, and schools** *Can do this now !!*
	X		**Annual State-of-the-Town Address** by mayor *a joke!, charade! all propaganda for reelection*
X			**Monthly Update from Mayor to Residents** (via email, web post, news column, etc.)
		X	**Master Plan Adoption by Town Council**, with citizen participation *is this allowed legally by M.G.L.? I am told this is purview of planning board*
			"Participatory Budgeting" (residents suggest and vote on projects to fund through the capital budget, as in Cambridge) *no idea what cambridge does*
X			**Citizen Petition** to Town Council – Council action discretionary *this is "apple pie"* *what's the difference?*
X			**Group Petition** to Town Council – Council action required, with 50 signatures

How do you heal the divide if the charter passes by 50% or less? (:-)

	Like It?		Charter Component (use space below to comment/suggest improvements)
Yes	**No**	**Not Sure**	
✓			**Citizen Initiative** – force town-wide vote on citizen proposal, with signatures from 5% of registered voters
✗			**Citizen Veto** – force town-wide vote on whether to overturn Town Council vote, with signatures from 5% of registered voters
✗			**Citizen Recall** of Elected Officials – with 15% of registered voters; no sooner than 9 months after elected *we can amend Town Gov. Act to allow this provision*
			Term Limits on Elected Officials (tell us what limits you prefer, if any) *How can a "Naive" mayor learn how to manage on the first term — who is paid ? Voyeurch.*
			Public Campaign Supports – provide resources (webpage, newspaper space, etc.) to make it easier for candidates to get noticed without big money; publicize donors *won't work*
✗			**Chief Administrative Officer** (senior level) **or Chief of Staff** (less senior) to provide professional management support for mayor
		✗	**Runoff Elections or "Ranked-Choice Voting"** to ensure majority vote for elected officials
✗			**Early Voting** offered for all local elections
✗			**Voting by Mail** offered for all local elections
			[Your idea here] *liberal democracy is on the wane world wide — (nytimes 3/28/17) looks like Amherst is part of the trend!*
			[Your idea here] *I don't know why you bother having these open meetings when your minds are cast in stone!!* ☹

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✓ TRANSPARENCY — real checks + balances, very important

Charter Commission Feedback Session – Comment Form

Like It?			
Yes	**No**	**Not Sure**	**Charter Component** (use space below to comment/suggest improvements)
X →⊳ BUT → Too Large! Cut it down. Also, only 2 at-large			**13 member Town Council** – 10 precinct representatives (2-year term), 3 at-large (4-year term)
X			**Mayor** – elected at-large (4-year term)
	X		**Neighborhood Meetings with Councilors**, at least quarterly, open to all residents Not in Charter – Will happen thru elected process
	X		**Civic Engagement Officer** (helps residents learn about opportunities to participate, and government to communicate better to residents) Same as above / Will happen by mayor deciding on needed assistance
X			**Annual Public Forums on budget, master plan, and schools**
		X	**Annual State-of-the-Town Address** by mayor
	X		~~Monthly~~ **Update from Mayor to Residents** (via email, web post, news column, etc.) Annual.
	⊗		**Master Plan Adoption by Town Council**, with citizen participation State Statute says Planning Bd does it.
		X	**"Participatory Budgeting"** (residents suggest and vote on projects to fund through the capital budget, as in Cambridge)
X			**Citizen Petition** to Town Council – Council action discretionary
		X	**Group Petition** to Town Council – Council action required, with 50 signatures

	Like It?		Charter Component (use space below to comment/suggest improvements)
Yes	**No**	**Not Sure**	
	X		**Citizen Initiative** – force town-wide vote on citizen proposal, with signatures from 5% of registered voters
	X		**Citizen Veto** – force town-wide vote on whether to overturn Town Council vote, with signatures from 5% of registered voters
X			**Citizen Recall** of Elected Officials – with 15% of registered voters; no sooner than 9 months after elected
	⊗		**Term Limits** on Elected Officials (tell us what limits you prefer, if any)
	X		**Public Campaign Supports** – provide resources (webpage, newspaper space, etc.) to make it easier for candidates to get noticed without big money; publicize donors → *Not in Charter. Will happen thru electoral process.*
	⊗		**Chief Administrative Officer** (senior level) **or Chief of Staff** (less senior) to provide professional management support for mayor *NOT IN CHARTER – Let Mayor choose support*
X			**Runoff Elections or "Ranked-Choice Voting"** to ensure majority vote for elected officials
X			**Early Voting** offered for all local elections
X			**Voting by Mail** offered for all local elections
			[Your idea here] *Still too much talk as intro — Everyone here*
			[Your idea here] *knows all this & everyone is here to offer our own comments.*