



January 21, 2025

At the Barrington Town Council meeting that was held on Monday, January 13, 2025, the following item was approved unanimously.

Minutes  
Monday, January 13, 2024, at 6:30PM  
Town Council Meeting  
Barrington Town Hall – Council Chamber

Present: President Braxton Cloutier, Vice President Kate Berard, Councilwoman Liana Cassar, Councilwoman Jordan Jancosek and Councilman Kerry O’Neill

Also, Present: Town Manager Phil Hervey, Assistant Town Solicitor Amy Goins, and Town Clerk Meredith J. DeSisto

**AGENDA ITEM #23: DISCUSS AND ACT: RATIFICATION OF THE TOWN CHARTER AMENDMENTS. (SOLICITOR) (NO PUBLIC COMMENT)**

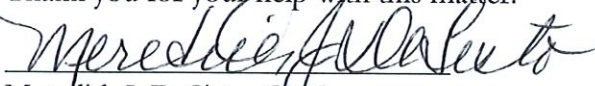
**TM Comment:** The Town Solicitor has provided a Resolution petitioning the R.I. General Assembly to enact a bill (attached) “validating and ratifying the amendments to the Town Charter of the Town of Barrington adopted by the electors on November 5, 2024.”

President Cloutier explained that this item will not have public comment because it was voted at the November election.

Assistant Town Solicitor Amy Goins explained that this is just a housekeeping matter pertaining to legislation, and typical for municipalities, once charter amendments are approved at the local level, the request is for the general Assembly to ratify those charter amendments, and the legal effect of that is allowing the Town to the extent there is any questions about interpretation or whether a charter provision prevails over specific over another state law. The ratification legislation allows the town to make the argument while the General Assembly has blessed the charter amendments as it cements the charter amendments not only on the law level but also putting the General Assembly on notice and letting them ratify the amendments

**Motion** President Cloutier and seconded by Councilwoman Jancosek to adopt the Resolution petitioning the R.I. General Assembly to enact An Act Validating and Ratifying Amendments to the Home Rule Charter of the Town of Barrington, as presented. **The motion passed in favor 5-0-0, President Cloutier, Vice President Berard, Councilwoman Cassar, Councilwoman Jancosek and Councilman O’Neill, no one opposed, no recusals and no abstentions.**

Thank you for your help with this matter.

  
Meredith J. DeSisto, CMC  
Barrington Town Clerk

Attachment/Enclosure

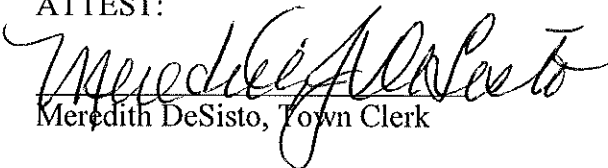
**RESOLUTION  
OF THE TOWN COUNCIL  
OF THE TOWN OF BARRINGTON**

**WHEREAS**, on November 5, 2024, the electors of the Town of Barrington voted to approve amendments to the Barrington Town Charter; and

**WHEREAS**, it is necessary for the Rhode Island General Assembly to validate and ratify said amendments as approved by the electors.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Barrington Town Council hereby petitions the Rhode Island General Assembly to enact the bill attached hereto during the 2025 session of the General Assembly validating and ratifying the amendments to the Town Charter of the Town of Barrington adopted by the electors on November 5, 2024.

ATTEST:

  
Meredith DeSisto, Town Clerk

Date:

2025 --

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2025

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AN ACT

VALIDATING AND RATIFYING AMENDMENTS TO THE HOME RULE CHARTER OF  
THE TOWN OF BARRINGTON

Introduced By:

Date Introduced:

Referred To:

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1           SECTION 1. In all respects in which the amendments to the Home Rule Charter of the  
2 town of Barrington, which amendments were adopted and approved by the electors of the town of  
3 Barrington on November 5, 2024, may require ratification, confirmation, validation, or enactment  
4 by the general assembly, but in no other respects, the provisions of said amendments to the Home  
5 Rule Charter of the town of Barrington are hereby ratified, confirmed, validated, and enacted. It  
6 is the express intention of the general assembly, by the passage of this act, to give effect to, ratify,  
7 confirm, validate, and enact those provisions of the said amendments to the Home Rule Charter of  
8 the town of Barrington which require ratification, confirmation, validation, or enactment and, by  
9 the passage of this act, the legislature does hereby ratify, confirm, validate, and enact said  
10 provisions, but nothing in this act shall be construed to abrogate or impair the powers now or  
11 hereafter granted to towns by the home rule amendment and other applicable laws of the state of

1 Rhode Island or those rights retained by said town of Barrington in its Home Rule Charter.

2 SECTION 2. If any provision of this act, or the application thereof to the town of  
3 Barrington or to any person or circumstances, is deemed invalid for any reason, the remainder of  
4 this act, or the application of such provision to said town or other persons or circumstances, shall  
5 not be affected thereby and, to this end, the provisions of this act are declared to be severable.

6 SECTION 3. This act shall take effect upon passage.

EXPLANATION  
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
OF  
AN ACT  
VALIDATING AND RATIFYING AMENDMENTS TO THE CHARTER OF THE TOWN OF  
BARRINGTON

\* \* \*

1           This act would validate and ratify the amendments to the Barrington Home Rule Charter  
2 which were approved by the electors of the town of Barrington on November 5, 2024.

3           This act would take effect upon passage.

*Town of Barrington, RI*  
**CERTIFICATE OF ELECTION**  
*General Election: November 5, 2024*

In accordance with Title 17 of the Rhode Island General Laws, the Barrington Canvassing Authority has reviewed the attached results for the local offices presented on the November 5, 2024, General Election ballot and certify the results listed below:

**LOCAL OFFICIALS:**

MODERATOR (Vote for 1): (Two-Year Term)

Richard F. Staples, Jr. (DEM)                      7983

TOWN COUNCIL (Vote for 3): (Four-Year Term)

Liana M. Cassar (DEM)                              5031

Kerry G. O'Neill (DEM)                              4650

Jordan M. Jancosek (DEM)                          4447

SCHOOL COMMITTEE (Vote for 3): (Four-year Term)

Timothy M. McNamara                              5018

Elizabeth A. Singh                                    4902

Karen G. Rasnick                                     4834

**LOCAL BALLOT QUESTIONS:**

Question #6 : APPROVE -- 6912/REJECT - 2804

**AMENDMENT TO BARRINGTON HOME RULE CHARTER FINANCIAL TOWN REFERENDUM**

Shall the annual Financial Town Meeting be replaced by a process whereby voters would vote at an all-day Financial Town Referendum on the budget proposed by the Committee on Appropriations, along with any additions, deletions, or alterations proposed by a qualifying petition from the Town Council, School Committee, or Town voter?

Question #7: APPROVE -- 7208/REJECT - 2263

**AMENDMENT TO BARRINGTON HOME RULE CHARTER TOWN DEPARTMENTS, COMMISSIONS, AND DEPARTMENT HEADS**

Shall changes be made to the Charter to reflect the current structure of Town government and current duties and practices of the Town Clerk, Clerk's Department, Director of Planning, Building, and Resiliency, Department of Planning, Building, and Resiliency, Finance Department, Tax Assessor, Director of Human Resources, Human Resources Department, Parks and Recreation Commission, Charter Review Commission and to incorporate these duties and practices into the Town Charter (including eliminating the requirement that the Town Clerk to post a bond as she is covered by the Town's insurance)



Question #8: **APPROVE - 6242/REJECT - 3654**

**AMENDMENT TO BARRINGTON HOME RULE CHARTER FIRE DEPARTMENT**

Shall Charter language that suggests that the Town has the authority to eliminate the Fire Department be eliminated from the Town Charter?

Question #9: **REJECT - 6047/APPROVE - 4056**

**USE OF FUNDS APPROPRIATED BY FINANCIAL TOWN MEETING FOR SYNTHETIC TURF ATHLETIC FIELD(S) AT BARRINGTON MIDDLE SCHOOL**

Shall the Town be authorized to utilize the funds appropriated by the electors at the Financial Town Meeting on May 22, 2024, to install synthetic turf athletic field(s) at Barrington Middle School

Question #10: **REJECT - 6149/APPROVE - 3933**

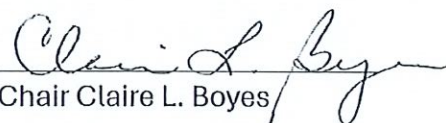
**USE OF FUNDS APPROPRIATED BY FINANCIAL TOWN MEETING FOR SYNTHETIC TURF ATHLETIC FIELD(S)**

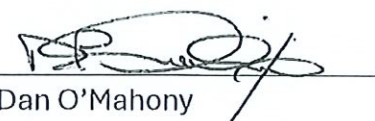
Shall the Town be authorized to utilize the funds appropriated by the electors at the Financial Town Meeting on May 22, 2024, to install synthetic turf athletic field(s) on municipally controlled land as an alternative to Barrington Middle School?

The Barrington Board of Canvassers met on Monday, November 25, 2024, at 4:00pm.

**Motion** by Chair Boyes and seconded by Mr. O'Mahony to certify the results of the General Election that was held on November 25, 2024. The tabulation was posted on the Rhode Island Board of Elections website ([elections.ri.gov](http://elections.ri.gov)) dated:

**The motion passed unanimously.**

  
Chair Claire L. Boyes

  
Dan O'Mahony

  
Al Schrade