

**DUKES COUNTY CHARTER STUDY COMMISSION
WORKGROUP ON ADMINISTRATIVE RECOMMENDATIONS**

OUTLINE OF POTENTIAL RECOMMENDATIONS – PART I

Consistent with Chapter 34A: Section 12 (A) (i), the Charter Study Commission “may draft and submit to the [DCC] Commissioners whatever recommendations it deems appropriate for the efficient administration of the county. Such recommendations may be adopted by the [DCC] Commissioners in whole or in part whether or not a new charter is recommended by the commission or approved by the voters.”

The purpose of this outline is to set forth a series of options and potential recommendations deemed appropriate for addressing a given issue, focusing on those issues the Charter Study Commission identified on February 29 as the most important.

The objective of our work group is to encourage, where possible, the approval of specific recommendations by the Charter Study Commission.

Failing this, it is our hope that those options for addressing a given issue that are seen most viable will be referred to the DCC Commissioners for them to consider and resolve.

The questions addressed to date are the following:

Should the DCCSC recommend expanding the role of the County Advisory Board? – 10

Overall Conclusion/Recommendation:

- Rather than formally redefine the roles and responsibilities of the CAB, focus on the role of County as follows:

“Consistent with current practice, the DCC should expand its collaboration with the County Advisory Board to include those functions listed below, without submitting the advice and council of the CAB to a formal vote.”

Rational:

- Further strengthening of the CAB would weaken the Commission’s ability to balance municipal and regional interests.
- The changes proposed are consistent with current practice and do not require statutory change.

1. In what ways? Input into annual performance reviews for County Manager or County Administrator (under future form)?

Options/Potential Recommendations:

- Participation in establishment of County objectives/agenda setting, consistent with current practice? - RECOMMENDED
- Participation in initial budget preparation/review, consistent with current practice? - RECOMMENDED

- Participation in County appointments/formal vetting of candidates?
- Participation in periodic reviews of Commission/Department performance?

2. Should CAB members have equal voting in non-fiscal matters?

Options/Potential Recommendations:

- Informally, by consensus. – RECOMMENDED
- If by formal vote, how should votes be counted?
 - By town, with each town having one vote?
 - By town, with each town’s vote weighted by population?

3. How should these changes be implemented?

Options/Potential Recommendation:

- By extending current practice – RECOMMENDED
- Through legislative action.
- Through County Ordinance or Administrative Code.

Should the DCCSC recommend that the DCC create a Municipal Advisory Council (as permitted by 34a.)? – 12

1. If so, what might be the functions?

Options/Potential Recommendations:

- Participation in establishment of County objectives/agenda setting? - RECOMMENDED
- On going consultation on issues of Island or County-wide concern - RECOMMENDED
- Participation in initial budget preparation/review?
- Participation in County appointments/formal vetting of candidates? - POSSIBLY
- Participation in periodic reviews of Commission/Department performance?

2. What might be the models for composition?

Options:

- All-Island Selectmen organization?
 - Support strengthening of All-Island Selectmen organization as a forum for addressing issues of multi-town and regional concern, on which both County Commissioners and Selectmen serve, as is current practice.
 - Engage it as a “sounding board” but NOT as a formal, DCC appointed Municipal Advisory Council
 - Formally consult with existing All-Island Selectmen before finalizing recommendations on the creation of an Advisory Council.

- Town administrators?

Notes: Attractive idea. Should be actively considered. May not be appropriate as a Municipal Advisory Council designed to provide advice and council directly to the DCC Commissioners. [More discussion needed.]

- Alternatively, recommend instead an Advisory Body with an explicitly Island/County-wide focus? For example:

- New advisory body formed with leaders of Island or County-wide agencies and organizations with regional impact, e.g. Housing, Health Care, Public Safety, Transportation, Water Treatment, Solid Waste, Education, Conservation, Chamber of Commerce, other.
Notes: Would not qualify as a Municipal Advisory Council. [More discussion needed.]
- New advisory body or bodies formed of community leaders chosen for their Island or County-wide perspective and subject matter expertise? Could be formed only as needed and/or to address specific issues.
Notes: Would not qualify as a Municipal Advisory Council. [More discussion needed.]
- None of the above
 - Engage any or all of the above options on an adhoc basis rather than formally appoint a Municipal Advisory Council.

Should DCCSC recommend revisions in the DCC Appointment Process? - 13

1. DCC appointment of its members to other agencies, such as the MVC, the Airport Commission, etc.? – 11

The Principle Agencies Impacted: The Steamship Authority, the Martha’s Vineyard Commission, the Airport Commission, the Retirement Board, the Housing Authority, and the Health Council, except as noted below. *[List others.]*

Options:

- Eliminate appointment of DCC Commissioners by the DCC to any other agency.
 - Through legislative action.
 - Through ordinance or changes to the DCC Administrative Code
 - In practice.

Special cases:

- Prohibit the appointment of any DCC Commissioner to an agency that compensates its members, e.g. the Retirement Board. - RECOMMENDED
- Select Steamship Authority Governor by County wide election
- Limit appointments to a maximum of 1 DCC Commissioner. - RECOMMENDED
Exception: the Steamship Authority member, which by statute cannot be a DCC Commissioner.
- Limit appointments to less than a voting majority of the agency.
- Place no restrictions on appointments.
- In lieu of appointing DCC Commissioners, establish, in practice, a preference for appointing representatives instead.

2. Schedule for when appointments are made? (Check statute)

Potential Recommendation (Subject to verification of M.G.L. requirements)

- Delay appointments until the month of March, except where specified to the contrary by M.G.L. (e.g. the MVC appointment in December, the Steamship Authority appointment in _____)

Purpose:

- To eliminate the practice of advertising and considering candidates during the holiday season.
- To give new Commissioners the opportunity to evaluate all candidates.

3. Mechanism for soliciting and reviewing candidates?

Potential Recommendation (Subject to schedule restrictions imposed by M.G.L.)

- Commence advertising after the holidays.
- Specify the purpose of the position and its minimum requirements.
- Create the expectation that all Commissioners will interview all candidates for those positions that have multiple applicants.

4. Authority of Chair vs. full DCC to make appointments? (Check statute)

Potential Recommendation (Subject to M.G.L.)

- Create the expectation that all DCC appointments will require the approval of the Full Commission.
- In those cases where the Chair has sole appointment authority, as in the case of Associate Commissioners, e.g. the Commissioners for Elder Affairs and for the Handicapped, create the expectation that all such appointments will take place in a public meeting of the DCC with the advice and consent of the other Commissioners.

5. Relationship of DCC to their appointees? General oversight? Other?

Potential Recommendation

- Create the expectation that, while not accountable in a subordinate capacity to the DCC, all appointees have a responsibility to periodically communicate to the Commission a given agency's issue(s) of concern and visa-versa.
- Likewise, create the expectation that all organizations appointed by the DCC, e.g. the Housing Authority and the Health Council will periodically brief the Commission on their functions and activities.