



TOWN OF ORLEANS

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Note on the Role of the Town Administrator/Manager

The Charter Review Committee had planned to recommend Charter revisions associated with the role of the Town Administrator/Manager. Some of these have already been incorporated in our process – the change of title from Administrator to Manager, a recommendation to strengthen the minimal qualifications and experience required for the position and greater authority for the Manager in the grant award and municipal agreement arenas.

However, given the complex challenges of efficiently running a town in today's world, and based on our public hearings/input, interviews with Town employees and those on multi - member bodies, as well as our research, we were exploring ways to further enhance the role and powers of the Manager.

In large part this was meant to divert some issues from the Select Board's direct engagement to better enable them to focus on policy issues, as well as stimulating more cross-town coordination, and upgrading town systems around issues like succession planning.

Similarly, to create more policy bandwidth for the Board, our committee considered ways in which the Select Board might engage more effectively with the individual boards and committees, including considering the extent they need to review and reaffirm actionable decisions and their dual role as the Park Commission which might be better administered and complemented by a combined natural resource, recreation and park commission.

In light of the Select Board's recent decision to appoint a consultant to look at the Town Manager's role, we have suspended active generation of actionable outcomes in this area. We would welcome an opportunity to brief the consultant on our information gathering to date. We understand that the consultant services are expected to run for roughly 90 days. Based on outcomes of the assessment and a timely consideration of them by the Select Board, we should be able to revisit these issues in the fall.

ORLEANS CHARTER REVIEW COMMITTEE
for review by the Select Board August 10, 2022