

COMMISSION PROVIDING FOR A BI-PARTISAN PREPARATORY
COMMISSION TO ASSEMBLE INFORMATION ON CONSTITUTIONAL
QUESTIONS IN PREPARATION FOR A VOTE BY THE QUALIFIED
ELECTORS ON THE HOLDING OF A CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION IN
ACCORDANCE WITH ARTICLE XIV SECTION 2 OF THE
RHODE ISLAND CONSTITUTION

Friday, July 16, 2004
Room 320

Organizational Meeting
Minutes

The following were present constituting a quorum:

- Richard P. Kearns (Counsel to the Speaker of the House)
Representative Peter F. Kilmartin
Representative Fausto C. Anguilla
Representative Anastasia P. Williams
Senator Marc A. Cote
Senator Daniel Da Ponte
Gary S. Sasse (RIPEC)
Harry L. Staley ((President of Rhode Island Shoreline Coalition)

Interested Parties:

Roy Pruett
Will Barbeau
Elmer Cornwell

Unable to attend meeting:

Barbara Hurst
Senator Maryellen Goodwin
Senator Leo Blais

Mr. Kearns called the meeting to order at 11:15 a.m.

The election of co-chairs who will represent the House of Representatives and the Senate was the first order of business. A motion was made by Representative Anastasia Williams nominating Representative Fausto Anguilla for co-chair and was seconded by Representative Peter Kilmartin. All were in favor of the motion therefore the motion was granted. Secondly, a motion was made by Senator Daniel Da Ponte nominating Senator Maryellen Goodwin as an additional co-chair and was seconded by Senator Marc Cote. All were in favor of the motion therefore the motion was granted. Representative Fausto Anguilla and Senator Maryellen Goodwin are the nominated co-chairs for the above commission.

Mr. Elmer Cornwell distributed a report of the Bi-Partisan Preparatory Commission for a Constitutional Convention that was formulated on July 5, 1984.

The commission will organize, gather information, hold public hearings and compile its findings. The commission shall report its findings no later than July 30, 2004, so its findings can be distributed to voters in the voter handbook mailed to them before the general election.

A motion was made by Mr. Harry Staley and seconded by Representative Peter Kilmartin asking the House of Representatives and Senate to extend the reporting date to August 13th. All were in favor of the motion therefore motion granted.

An amended motion was made by Mr. Harry Staley and seconded by Representative Peter Kilmartin extending the recording date from the August 13th to August 20th. All were in favor therefore motion granted.

Mr. Richard Kearns reviewed a listing of tentative dates to hold public meetings around the state to discuss issues that could be addressed by a constitutional convention. Tuesday, July 20th at the State House was the first date that was reviewed. Representative Anastasia Williams suggested the July 20th meeting be extended to a later date so that the meeting can be properly advertised and the citizens will have proper notice to attend the meeting.

Due to the timetable Mr. Richard Kearns suggested that the commissioners look into advertising through the local papers, and other means of the media and allow ample time for postings regarding the statewide meetings. Representative Anguilla echoed Mr. Kearns' suggestion.

A motion was made by Mr. Harry Staley and seconded by Representative Peter Kilmartin to have one of the meetings in the Northern part of the state. All were in favor therefore motion was granted.

A motion was made by Representative Anastasia Williams and seconded by Representative Peter Kilmartin to have all meetings publicized in the Providence Journal and other appropriate newspapers and Mr. Kearns will draft the appropriate notice to be advertised. All were in favor therefore motion granted.

After much discussion the following meeting dates were agreed upon:

Thursday, July 22, 2004 at 7:00 pm
Newport City Hall (City Council Chambers)
43 Broadway
Newport, RI 02840

Tuesday, July 27, 2004 at 7:00 pm
West Warwick Town Hall (Town Council
Chambers)
1170 Main Street
West Warwick, RI 02893-4829

Thursday, July 29, 2004 at 7:00 pm
Woonsocket City Hall (City Council Chambers)
169 Main Street
Woonsocket, RI 02895

Tuesday, August 3, 2004 at 7:00 pm
Roger Williams University (Moot Court Room)
10 Metacom Avenue
Bristol, RI

Thursday, August 5, 2004 at 7:00 pm
Westerly Town Hall (Town Council Chambers)
45 Broad Street
Westerly, RI 02891

Wednesday, August 11, 2004 at 7:00 pm
Room 313, State House
Smith Street, Providence, RI

Senator Cote said he would like to see a list of all the constitutional amendments that have been proposed by legislators through legislation, rather than through the constitutional convention process, since 1984. Mr. Elmer Cornwell said he would get that list.

Representative Fausto Anguilla would like to know since 1984 how many changes to the constitution were made through the amendment process opposed to the constitutional convention process.

Representative Peter Kilmartin motioned for adjournment. The motion was seconded by Representative Fausto Anguilla. The meeting adjourned at 12:30 p.m.

The next meeting will take place on Thursday, July 22nd at 7:00 pm Newport City Hall (City Council Chambers).