

Town Charter Commission Meeting Freedom, Maine

Minutes of April 18 2023

DRAFT

Present: Mary Ann Bennett, Meredith Coffin, Rene Ouellet, Tyler Hadyniak, Phil Bloomstein, Alexis Bennett, William Pickford

Absent: Elaine Higgins, Tim Biggs

Agenda 1. Meeting called to order by Tyler at 6:04pm. Quorum achieved.

Agenda 2. Review of meeting minutes of April 4, 2023.

Edits: Under Agenda 3 drop "Committee" after Charter Commission, Under Agenda 4 remove "rebuttal" and reword to read "Steve and Ron were given 10 minutes...", delete second bullet.

Tyler moved and Mary Ann seconded to accept the minutes as edited. Motion Carried. 1 abstention.

Agenda 3. Review introduction of the Charter, final perusal of Charter, specifically the conflict of interest section.

Introduction reviewed. Tyler to confirm with town clerk the date that the town voted to have a charter. Possibly September 18, 2021. Corrected that there were three members appointed and six elected.

Conflict of interest section reviewed. Discussed use of "shall" versus "will". The latter being stronger. "Will" is used in the conflict of interest language as applies to the Select Board.

"Shall" appears many other times and it was left as such.

Voting to accept this document as a preliminary draft allows it to be transferred to the attorney as well as posting it in the community. Phil moved and Mary Ann seconded to accept this document as the preliminary draft. Motion Carried, unanimously

Audible sighs of relief

Next Steps.

When the draft is back from the attorney, it will be circulated among the Commission before meeting again.

Tyler to ask the attorney to make clear what is the effective date of the Charter if it passes and how many voters are needed to participate in this vote.

Tyler will report to the Select Board about posting a flyer regarding the charter draft and the need to have it voted on at a town meeting.

It was noted that the Select Board voted on April 10, 2023 at their meeting to extend the work of the Charter to 2 years from the start date in March of 2022.

The community will be made aware of this draft Charter through Facebook, the Town Website, postings at the town office, post office, fire station, Unity Library, Tyler's weekly column and as a PDF if requested.

ADJOURNMENT : Tyler moved and Mary Ann seconded to adjourn at 7:33. motion carried

Next meeting : No meeting planned at this time.

Respectfully submitted, Meredith Coffin