

Town Charter Commission Meeting Freedom, Maine
Minutes of January 3, 2023

Present: MaryAnn Bennett, Meredith Coffin, Rene Ouellet, Phil Bloomstein, Tyler Hadyniak,
Tim Biggs, William Pickford

Absent: Alexis Bennett

Assignments for next meeting on January 17, 2023

- Rene will amend the draft to include our questions, up to Article 302. It was decided that our questions should be on the document that the Select Board reviews, eliminating need to cross reference, go back and forth, etc.
- Tyler will work on the introduction to the Charter
- Tyler will invite the Select Board to one of our meetings soon to begin flushing out our questions.

Agenda 1. Meeting called to order by Tyler at 6:06 pm. Quorum achieved.

Agenda 2. Review of meeting minutes of December 20, 2022.

- One typo identified: Should read as : One typo identified. Not: I typo identified.
- Tyler asked for clarification as to what “Assignments for the next meeting...” meant. Clarification given.
- Suggestion made and accepted to make all type the same (eliminating bold as well as the underlines).
- Rene moved and MaryAnn seconded to accept the minutes with the above changes. *Motion Carried.* Four yeas and three abstentions.

Agenda 3. Prior to continued read through beginning with Section 301: Town Meetings, the Committee discussed the work MaryAnn and Meredith presented.

1. They presented a 2 ½ page document highlighting parts of the draft Charter that need more clarification and the questions associated with those parts.
2. Committee felt pairing the draft with the questions on the same page was important when presenting to the SB.
3. Committee agreed to go through questions 1 through 11.(followed handout)
 - #1 Will check with SB (Select Board) about requirement to be a resident for one year.
 - #2 Term of Office: section 201.5.1 changed to 201.5.III
 - #3 Check with SB to see if using “seven days” is clearer.
 - #4 Check with SB as to if they have an Municipal Employees Handbook, do they have an employee manual. Do they want to change anything?
 - #5 Need to define interlocal agreement. Clarify with SB how they participate in the agreements.
 - #6 SB to confirm what the circumstances are under which a SB person may participate as a firefighter.
 - #7 How does the SB fill vacancies through out the municipality as well as on the SB. 202.1.V refers to 201.5.III
 - #8 No issue. Town warrant is dealt with later.

- #9 Ask SB if chairperson of SB receives 20% over other SB members.
- #10 Suggestion that a requirement for being on the SB include being a registered voter of Freedom
- #11 SB to clarify how long an appointment lasts when a vacancy is filled of an elected position.
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- 4. Continued read through section 301: Town Meetings
- Confirm what the SB does to determine date of town meeting.
- 301.2.II Remove Australian and just use Secret
- 301.3 No need to say that the town report gets mailed if requested. We suggest dropping “ gets mailed”
- 301.2.I Suggestion to mail out the warrant of the town meeting., not the whole report.
- Election of SB members could read “prior” to the town meeting.
- Confirm if it is a majority or 2/3 of voters present that need to consent to let a non voter speak.
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- 5. Committee discussed need for a comprehensive plan. Are we out of date? Do we need to upgrade the town's plan? Do we have any guidance? Should we include in the Charter that we have a long range plan? Then it would be a legal responsibility.

Agenda 4. Adjournment.

Our next work will be :

1. Continue the second read through of the clean copy beginning with Section 302 Nominations and Elections
2. Assignments given
3. Tyler moved and MaryAnn seconded to adjourn the meeting at 7:39 pm. **Motion Carried**

Next meetings : Tuesday January 17, 2023

Tuesday February 7, 2023

Tuesday February 21, 2023

Respectfully submitted, Meredith Coffin