

Town Charter Commission Meeting Freedom, Maine
Minutes of November 1, 2022

Present: Mary Ann Bennett, Meredith Coffin, Tim Biggs, Tyler Hadyniak,
Phil Bloomstein, Rene Ouellet.
Absent: William Pickford
Guest: Julian Rowland

Agenda 1. Meeting called to order by Tyler at 6:03 pm. Quorum achieved.

Agenda 2. Potential new committee member introduced, Julian Rowland. He moved to Freedom two years ago from Portland. Has also lived in D.C. and California. He works with Maine Initiatives, managing grants to promote justice and equity work in our state.

Agenda 3. Review of meeting minutes of October 18, 2022.

Tyler moved and Mary Ann seconded to approve minutes as written. ***MOTION CARRIED. 2 abstentions.***

Agenda 4. Continued section review.

Prior to beginning section review, Tyler noted we need to establish our next step as likely we will have finished our first read through tonight. Rene commented that he has started to read through the first draft and noted that as time went on our committee warmed to our task at hand. The early read throughs will need more tidying up. Rene offered to do a clean copy for next time.

If we wanted to have the town vote at town meeting in March, then we need to conclude our work by February 1, 2023, as that is when the town clerk needs to have what will be printed in the town warrant for town meeting in March. Question on the table is will we be ready for a hearing in December. Also noted is that we can call a separate town meeting. We have talked about using MMA first and then presenting to the Select Board and then finally the townspeople.

Section Review using overhead projector and personal laptops.

PART III Functions

Article 301 Town Meetings Rene's article

Section 301.4 Elections

- We modified the section to avoid listing officials. They can be listed somewhere else. Focus is to write what we expect will not change.

Section 301.5 Individual Authority

- 301.5.1 Suggestions to the Select Board. Reads well
- 301.5.2 Authority to vote and speak. Need to check with the Select Board if we use 2/3 of the voters present to allow a non voter to speak.
- 301.5.3 Discussion Limits. Reads well. We have confidence that the moderator moves discussion along.
- 301.5.4 Rules of Order. Noted that with Robert's Rules a moderator can be overridden by a simple majority. We discussed how a "Point of Order" is used and how it is about procedure. Need for the moderator to use discretion if the Maine Moderator's Manual does not address a procedural issue. This led to comment that we should avoid having a select board member be a moderator. Prior to a meeting

the moderator could lay out what rules will be used and explain them to the people. Section reads well.

- 301.5.5 Consideration. It was felt this is important. We need to check State Law. Again how
- consideration is initiated and by whom is something that should be outlined prior to any meeting.

Article 302 Nominations and Elections

Section 302.1 Conduct of Elections

- Reads well. Is straightforward.

Section 302.2 Nomination by Petition Method

- 302.2.1 Petitions. Reads well.
- 302.2.2 Signatures. Clean the wording up to avoid using “his/her/their”
- 302.2.3 Filing and Acceptance of Petitions. Important to keep clear to maintain legal status. Reads well.
- 302.2.4 Procedure after filing nomination papers. Reads well.

Section 302.3 Order of Candidates Surnames

- This led to a discussion of our State's rank choice system. The Federal Senate race will not have ranked choice voting in place. Our Governor, U.S. Congress and State positions do.

Section 302.4 Secret Ballot

- Currently we count ballots by hand. May not always be the case. Keep wording.

Section 302.5 Determination of Election Results

- 302.5.1 Every voter gets to vote for each vacancy
- 302.5.2 Plurality determines the winner. If a tie do we meet again on another day and vote?

Section 302.6 Moderators

- Reads well. This article does not apply to the election of Moderators.

This concludes our first read through.

Agenda 4 Adjournment.

Our next work will be :

1. Revisit our time line, what we will need for lead times prior to presentations.
 2. Phil and Rene will provide a clean copy prior to our next meeting.
 3. We need to read the clean copy and be ready to review our first draft.
 4. Then we send to MMA
 5. Then we present to the Select Board.
- **TYLER: to follow up with MMA regarding the employee handbook and ethics guidelines**
 - **TYLER to follow up with State Statutes and what they require as to hearings and time lines.**
- *Mary Ann moved and Rene seconded to adjourn the meeting at 7:20 pm.*

Respectfully submitted, Meredith Coffin

Next meetings : Tuesday November 15, 2022
Tuesday December 6, 2022