

Town Charter Commission Meeting Freedom, Maine  
Minutes of January 17, 2023  
**DRAFT**

Present: MaryAnn Bennett, Meredith Coffin, Rene Ouellet, Tim Biggs, William Pickford,  
Alexis Bennett

Absent: Tyler Hadyniak, Phil Bloomstein

**Assignments for next meeting on February 7 2023**

- Prepare to welcome the Select Board who we have invited to our meeting.
- Tyler to send Select Board the full charter in preparation for our meeting with them.
- Tyler to review and ensure correctness of our references to State Statutes

**Agenda 1.** Meeting called to order by MaryAnn at 6:07pm. Quorum achieved.

**Agenda 2.** Review of meeting minutes of January 3, 2023.

- One error noted: Under Agenda 4, Section 302 is “Nomination and Elections” not “Town Meetings”
- MaryAnn moved and Rene seconded to accept the minutes with the above change.  
***Motion Carried.*** Four yeas and one abstention. (6<sup>th</sup> committee member arrived after this vote)

**Agenda 3.** Prior to continued read through of full charter it is noted:

1. Rene entered all questions and concerns for the Select Board in the full document. Highlighting was used and paired with the question to the side bar.
2. Rene to check reference in Section 303.4 to possible Article 301
3. Committee agreed that Tyler should be the one to send the final full document to the Select Board.
4. Committee agreed that someone from the committee should say something at the Town Meeting in March, giving the townspeople a progress report and what to expect.

Read through continued beginning with Article 302 Nomination and Elections

- Section 302.2 Nomination by Petition. We again want to clarify with the SB what constitutes qualification. We recommend an individual needs to have been a registered voter in Freedom for a year.
- Section 302.2 III Filing and Acceptance of Petition. Title 30-A 25284 E is referenced. This needs to be checked.
- Rest of 302 reads well
- Article 303 Ordinances
- Section 303.1 Authority. Title 30-MSRA 3001 needs to be checked.
- Section 303.3 Ordinance Creation. Committee questioned how SB could pass an ordinance without a town vote. We left the wording as Section 303.6 Emergency Ordinances made sense.
- Section 303.4 Public Hearings. Need to confirm reference as to how hearings are advertised.

- Section 303.5 Ballots for Ordinances. Reads well.
- Section 303.6 Emergency Ordinances. Do we have an adequate emergency ordinance?
- Section 303.7 Reads well
- Section 303.8 Codification of Ordinances. The Freedom Code is referenced. This is a new term for Freedom. It needs to be defined. We like it.
- Article 304 Financial Procedures.
- Section 304.10 Lapse of Appropriations. Need to clarify guidelines regarding a lapse.
- Other sections read well.
- Article 305 Long Range Planning

Committee discussed that our Comprehensive Plan needs updating. Find what guidance we have regarding including it in the Charter.

- Other thoughts of the Committee At the end of the final read through of the full charter there is a series of ideas and suggestions the committee thought important. If the SB is in favor we can then include them in the charter.

FINAL READ THROUGH COMPLETED

**Agenda 4.** Adjournment.

At our next meeting we host the Select Board.

Bill moved and MaryAnn seconded to adjourn the meeting at 7:36 pm. **Motion Carried**

Next meetings : Tuesday February 7, 2023

Tuesday February 21, 2023

Respectfully submitted, Meredith Coffin