

Present: Tyler Hadyniak via zoom, Maryann Bennett, Joseph Freeman Sr., Eleanor MacMakin, Phil Bloomstein, Tim Biggs, Rene Ouellet, Meredith Coffin

Absent: William Pickford

Meeting called to order at 6:18 pm. Quorum achieved.

Review of last meeting minutes. Maryann moved to accept minutes as presented. Joseph Freeman seconded. Motion carried.

Discussion Points

- Town charters. It was noted that town charters we reviewed that had a select board, also had a town manager.
 - Concept of town manager discussed. It could be valuable to provide more assistance to the select board, especially in grant writing. Language could be added to the charter to allow creation of a position (could be any position) by the select board while funding of the position would be up to the town residents.
 - Also noted: many select boards have 5 positions.
 - Input from our select board will be needed.
- Policy Book. We need to get a copy. Charter wording needs to support policy. A specific example of the charter laying out a clear procedure would be the recall procedure. The State of Maine has a procedure for this.
- Ordinances. We need a copy of all. They all should be posted on the town's website under government
- The State Statute link regarding charter and amending was in Tyler's first email to the committee.
- Model charter. It was agreed that the St. George charter is appropriate for us to use as a template for our work.
- Town charter-preferred grants. U. S. Department of Agriculture (U.S.D.A.) and Rural Development Programs have many aspects, loans, grants. However there is no accurate language that excludes towns without charters, but it is suggested that a charter is a good thing to have. Grantors want clear guidelines and a charter would be helpful. Grant submissions are scored and having a charter would help in achieving a good score.
- Rough Draft. For the May 3 meeting: all to draw up a rough draft of a table of contents for the charter. Plan is to use St. George and its table of contents, dropping ones that don't apply and adding others. Then at the meeting we will, as a group, vote on each section and decide which section we want to incorporate first. Then it will be clearer if work can be done in smaller groups with a report out to the greater committee.

ACTION ITEMS

1. Phil to set up Google Docs with reading and editing access.
2. Maryann to get in touch with Cindy to access a complete set of policies. Phil will then post.
3. All need to use St. George charter as template to create rough draft.
4. All to review policies and ordinances of the Town of Freedom

Respectfully submitted, Meredith Coffin, secretary