

**Village of Arden, Governance Task Force
Meeting Minutes: March 31, 2022**

Attendance:

Committee members: Ray Seigfried (Chair), John Scheflen, Barbara Macklem, Lynda Kolski, Beverly Clendening, Steve Benigni, Kate Threefoot

Copies of the following documents were made available to all task force members: 1) Agenda for March 31, 2022, 2) an information sheet, "Ordinances, Resolutions, Policies, Procedures and Motions" that was prepared by John Scheflen for the Ordinances Sub-task force, 3) Charter Preamble Draft.

Meeting was called to order at 7:37 PM

A motion to approve the minutes for the February 24 meeting was seconded and passed.

Old Business

Schedule for Task Force and Sub-Task Force meeting was reviewed.

- Ordinance and Policies Sub-Task Force will meet on the 3rd Thursday of every month, except for the April 2022 meeting which will be on Tuesday, April 19.
- The Charter Sub-Task Force will meet on the 3rd Thursday of every month.
- The General GTF meeting will take place on the 4th Thursday of each month.

The general schedule of topics to be discussed at Sub-Task Force meeting created by Ray Seigfried and shared with the committee on March 5 will be posted to the GTF Web page. Any changes to this schedule should be posted on the web page and the Village Bulletin Board at the Buzz Ware Village Center 7 days before the meeting.

New Business

1. A motion was made by Ray Siegfried to recommend the type of government for the Village of Arden

Motion: "The GTF recommends to continue with a direct-democracy form of government for the Arden Village"

Motion seconded by Lynda Kolski

Discussion:

- This motion is meant to make the type of government explicit. This is definition is foundational for rest of the work to be done by the committee.
- Questions was raised whether the GTF was charged with examining the type of government for the Village or if we should assume that we have a direct democracy. The GTF was charged with examining the documents that codify the government to update the charter and ordinances, resolve ambiguities and establish policies and procedures to facilitate Village governance and operations.

Suggested rephrasing of the motion: "GTF acknowledges and articulates a direct democracy form of government in the Village of Arden."

This motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

2. Ordinance Sub-Task Force report

On March 21, the sub-task force began its discussion of the differences among ordinances, resolutions and policies by working from a document prepared by John Scheflen. This document was shared with the full Task Force. The sub-task force recommends revising Charter section 11 to provide a mechanism for revising and repealing ordinances. In addition, the sub-task force recommends that any motion to enact, revise or repeal an ordinance be referred to the applicable committee for their review before being presented to the Town Assembly.

Kate Threefoot created a document that changes make these changes in the Charter. Lynda Kolski suggested that the sub-task force should make a list of recommendation rather than make proposed changes to Charter. The full task force agreed with this approach. It was also suggested that the sub-task force recommendations might be better suggested as policies rather than changes to the charter. It was also noted that a clarification of the difference between an ordinance, a resolution and a policy needs to be documented as a part of the outcomes of the Task Force work.

3. Charter subcommittee

A draft of a Charter Preamble was presented. Several changes were suggested by Steve Benigni. These changes were discussed and approved by the task force. A motion to post the revised preamble was made, seconded and approved unanimously.

The meeting was Adjourned at 8:51 PM.