

GTF: Charter Sub-Task Force Meeting Minutes

Thursday, May 19, 2022

Attendees: Ray Seigfried, Steve Benigni, Barbara Macklem, and Lynda Kolski

Meeting called to order by Ray at 7:38 Buzz Ware

Minutes from the April meeting were reviewed and approved.

The focus of this meeting was to review Sections 2, 4 and 11 of the charter.

Ray reported his conversation with a lawyer about stating the geographic area of Arden. Most charters have one overall statement on their land boundaries but given the history of Arden we could present our territory through amendments. Once done it would also provide the process for any future additional land purchase.

Ray asked the Sub Task Force to review both Sections 4 and 11. At this meeting he wanted to open general discussion over both. The discussion opened with a question about the last sentence in Section 4. "The Town Assembly shall consist of all residents of the Village." Does this mean that the power vested is only with all residents of Arden [where all decisions must go to referendum like a pure-democracy] or with the residence who attend Town Assembly meetings [where everyone has an opportunity to exercise these powers like a direct democracy]? Barbara pointed out that Section 5 Meetings of the Town Assembly identifies residents who attend Town Assembly have the opportunity of voting for powers stated in the charter. Ray agreed but perhaps clearer language could be used to define Town Assembly. Steve informed the team that he had read the 1966 Town Assembly minutes about the charter and found it helpful.

The team reviewed Section 11. In the last paragraph there is language that could be up-dated example it states that Town Assembly shall have copies "printed" ...that the Secretary keep a "book" Town Assembly compile codes, orders and rules. It would improve this paragraph if these words are up-dated with consideration of computers and all forms of communications.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:41.