

GTF: Charter Sub-Task Force Meeting Minutes

Thursday, March 16, 2023

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

The meeting called to order by Ray at 7:31 Buzz Ware

The minutes from the February meeting were reviewed with corrections and approved. Ray opened the meeting by talking about next week's meetings. On Tuesday, March 21, we will have a public meeting, and on Wednesday, March 22, we will have a special meeting with our lawyer to review the charter. The regular sub-Task Force meeting on Thursday March 23 will be cancelled. Next, Ray talked about the Registration Committee's interest in changing the charter regarding the definition of a referendum. A general discussion took place. Steve indicated that the Registration Committee announced at the Advisory meeting their intention to obtain a vote at Town Assembly March meeting to move forward with this change. Barbara mentioned that when she was on the Registration Committee, each member had 25 calls to make to try to encourage residents to vote. It is always challenging to obtain a majority vote. Section 3 b. of the charter clearly states that a referendum means an election of the residents of the Village, and a majority of those residents shall be necessary to pass any such election. To change this would require a charter change. The issue is that the Registration Committee wants this change soon and is interested in getting this approved outside of the course of our Task Force. The primary concern for the Task Force was having a charter change done separate by the Registration Committee and then the Task Force change later. A motion was made and seconded, stated as follows,

"Any charter change outside of the GTF final recommendation must be integrated as one package with our changes before it is sent to the General Assembly for approval."

The Task Force reviewed section 12 with the following recommendation, update the statement "The New Castle County Correctional Institution" and identify the maximum dollar amount of fines and length of imprisonment that Arden can enforce. Also need to check the local justice of Peace to make sure they know our ordinances. The Task Force reviewed Section 13 concerning Police Force and had the following recommendation. Though we thought it should include the entire section, it will need review from a lawyer to ensure it complies with county and state law.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45.