

GTF Meeting Minutes Thursday, May 25, 2023

Attendees: Ray Seigfried, John Scheflen, Lynda Kolski, Barbara Macklem, Steve Benigni, Bev Clendening

The meeting called to order by Ray at 7:35

Minutes for meeting on April 27 approved with corrections.

Registration Committee will review the timetable for Charter approval and give Ray feedback.

By-laws

There are items in the by-laws that are not in the Charter, specifically policies for the conduction of TA meetings and a statement about how by-laws are amended. The Section 16: Savings clause of the current Charter states the “all ordinances, resolutions, motions” in force at the time of the acceptance...of this Act are continued in force until...any...shall be repealed, modified, or altered by the Town assembly...”

It was also pointed out that Article VII states that by-laws can be amended by referendum. This precedent suggests that changes to the Charter should also require a referendum. The Charter should contain an authority clause.

The Sub-TF on Ordinances and Policies recommends the following:

- By-laws be repealed
Articles V and VI of the 1957 By-laws be incorporated into a policy on TA meeting protocols
- An authority clause in the Charter to cover Article VII: Amendments.

To ensure that we have not missed something in the by-laws that is not in the Charter, Ordinances and current policies Lynda, Bev and John will review the by-laws and make recommendations to the full committee.

Timetable for GTF: revised May 25

- June, July August full GTF will meet on third and fourth Thursday to review all recommended changed to Charter, Ordinances and Policies.
- Projected finish date: September TA meeting
- October, November, and December – public education meeting for changes to the Charter as well as information about policies. Notices will be placed in the Page for Education meetings.
- January vote on recommendations for Charter. Approval of Ordinances can follow a different timeline.
- February referendum
- Brief Representative/Senator for presentation to General Assembly

It was suggested that there be a printed booklet covering current official documents, all changes and rationale for changes. The cost of a booklet may be prohibitive. Supporting documents are already online. Essential parts: Formation of GTF, members, sub-committees, actual changes and reasons for changes. This document will be placed online. Copies of Booklet should be placed in Office, Museum and Library.

Proposed agenda for June Meeting – June 15

By-laws

Definition of Ordinance, resolutions

Ordinance Roll-out

Review Redline copy of Charter

Adjourn 8:43