

GTF Meeting Minutes Thursday, August 17, 2023

Attendees: Ray Seigfried, John Scheflen, Barbara Macklem, Steve Benigni, Bev Clendening, Lynda Kolski (via Zoom)

The meeting called to order at 7:36

Minutes for meeting on July 27 were approved with corrections.

Review of Ordinance on Authorizing Expenditures of Funds Received after the Budget Referendum. The Arden webpage contains a policy on Monetary Funds that was adopted by TA on June 23, 2008. The policy includes Purpose, Acceptance, Definitions, Management of Funds, Use of Funds. The policy includes the Election of a Project Administrator. The GTF had been planning to create an ordinance to govern the use of monetary funds that are not a part of the yearly budget. The group discussed whether this should be an Ordinance or Policy. There was a consensus that an ordinance is needed to deal with monetary funds. It was also generally agreed that expenditures above a certain limit should require a referendum vote. The specific limit was not discussed. It was agreed that all members of the GTF need to review the policy on Monetary funds adopted in 2008. At the next meeting we will discuss this policy and compare it to the proposed ordinance.

Ordinance 15

Jennifer Borders sent the GTF a revision of Ordinance 15 that Community Planning has been working on for several years.. The ordinance subtask force has also been working on a draft of this ordinance. The ordinance task force was asked to review the Community Planning proposal. Ray will ask a representative from CP to attend the next meeting.

Review of Charter recommendations

The following are changes to the edited charter document provided by Ray:

- Section 5 (d) - change text to “each resident attending a meeting, either in person or by electronic means, shall have one vote...” Note that absentee ballots are used only for elections.
- Charter Section 5(b) - add at the end: “The business of the special meeting shall be the confined to the subject mentioned in the call.”
- Regarding Special Town meeting. Charter states that the Chair of TA will run ALL TA meetings. There is no chain of command to deal with the possible absence of the Town Chair. Several members have a memory that the Chair of Advisory would stand in for Chair in their absence. In addition, the 1957 by-laws state that in the absence of the Chair, the next Junior Trustees would run the meeting. If a Trustee is not available, the TA could elect a Chair for the meeting by a majority vote. We are recommending that the By-laws be repealed and that a policy on the Conduct of Meeting be added. This issue could be added to the new policy. It was suggested that in the absence of the Chair, the Chair of Advisory would Chair the TA meeting. If neither is present, TA could elect a temporary Chair for that meeting

- Section 5(b) does not define how the date of the special meeting will be determined. It was suggested that Advisory committee should determine the date of the meeting. John proposed that the words' the special meeting shall be held not more than 25 days after the Secretary's receipt of the written....."This was amended to 30 days.
- Section 5h - last line remove "for duties as such."
- 5 (e) should read "...two consecutive meetings, whether a regular meeting or a special meeting, called for that purpose..."
- Add between current 5(e) and 5(f), the following statement: "A referendum shall be held as noted in the Charter or by a majority vote by the town assembly. "
- Re-alphabetize all parts of section 5 to accommodate this change.
- Section 6b remove "in the manner herein provided.
- Section 9 a, third line, remove "his."
- Section 10 last line "elect a resident".
- Section 11 final paragraph, add policies to list of documents to be compiled. At end of paragraph may be "readily accessed and examined".
- Section 12 (b) "No ordinance of the Village shall provide for a fine in excess of the limits prescribed by state law."
- Section 14 replace Chairman with Chair
- Section 14 remove "with the seal of the Village attached and attested by the Secretary of the Town Assembly."
- Remove current Section 15
- New Section 15 Amendments "Changes to the charter shall be approved by referendum before presented to the State Assembly for approval. "
- Section 16 Savings Clause. The use of the title "Commissioners" was questioned. The lawyers should be consulted about the use of this term.
- Insert the definitions of ordinance, resolution, policy and procedure in the definitions in Section 3.

Education Sessions

Schedule sessions in October through December; 6 total meetings. Barbara will check the BWVC availability.

Education meeting will also be residents' opportunity to suggest additional changes.

Assessors, Registration and Budget sections as well as change in the fiscal year will need considerable discussion, requiring more than one meeting.

Next meeting August 29 at 7:30 (meeting next week cancelled).

Agenda: Funding ordinance and review Ordinances 11, 13, 14, 15.

Final meeting in September for final review of all charter and ordinance changes.

Adjourn 9:21