

Special Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes
February 13, 2024
BWVC @ 7:30 p.m.

Attendance: Jeffrey Politis, Elizabeth Varley, Larry Walker, Deborah Ricard, Helen Ohlson, Jennifer Borders, Simon Hamermesh, Mary Young, Sachin Puranik, Skip Bailey, Bev Clendening, Simon Hamermesh.

Guest: Bob Erenburg (Budget Committee member), Ellie Hansen, Carol DiGiovanni, Warren Rosenkrantz.

Arden Chair, Sachin P convened meeting at 7:31 p.m.

Special Advisory Committee AGENDA

A motion was passed at the January Town Assembly to plan a Special Meeting regarding the Governance Task Force (GTF) Charter changes. Per the motion mandate the following Agenda was presented to the Special Advisory Committee:

- Select a date to hold the Special Town Assembly Meeting
Vote approved to hold Special Town Assembly on Monday, March 4, 2024 @7:30 p.m., Gild Hall (The Arden library will offer child care).

Vote approved to move the March 4th Advisory quarterly meeting to Wednesday, March 6th, BWVC @7:30. Mary Young will confirm BWVC availability.

- Set an agenda for the March 4th Special town Assembly meeting.
(Guidelines on a general plan on what we are going to talk about. Not necessarily how we are going to do things. I.e. introduction to charter, how the Charter vs the town assembly works, share what the Governance Tasks Force lawyer's opinion on what the requirements are on changing the charter).

Special Town Assembly Agenda:

- Introduction by the Governance Task Force
- Presentation and Discussion of Proposed changes to the charter

Comments/Questions

- Differentiating what needs to be in the Charter vs what could be in Ordinances and why.
- Present the proposed changes alongside the current Charter. The Governance Task Force has the responsibility to present and explain their changes the way they choose.
- No time limit. Suggest instead of a time limit, to ask the Assembly at some point if they want to continue or adjourn.

- What happens at the Special Town meeting after the initial discussion of the Governance Task Force?
- Codify at the beginning of the meeting by making suggestions on how to run the meeting and if there are no objections. If objection, then the town assembly will decide how to run it by presenting a motion.
- Thank the Governance Task Force.
- Approach each change with an open mind and be respectful.
- Please stay on topic. There will be a proposed change follow by Questions and discussion for clarity to make sure all understand what the proposed change is. Further discussion to indicate if they like it or not. Then go to the next proposed change. (Can suggest a time cap for questions & discussions. The town assembly can decide if they want to continue to discuss beyond the suggested time cap).
- Hold off on all Motions till the whole picture is presented and to make sure that all understand the changes.
- The GTF choses how they will present information and are evaluating ways to present it in a timely manner. There are pieces that are non-controversial (gender neutral language). First present all the gender-neutral changes (For example, changing Chairman to Chair or He to Person, etc.) Don't need to go through each one unless requested. This will allow more time to focus on the substantive changes.
- At the conclusion of the discussion, the town assembly will determine the best method to move forward.
- Request that the postcard mailing with the Special Town meeting agenda provide some background about the Governance Task Force for those who are not familiar with the history. Provide a statement that references the mandates that was given to the Task Force. For example, it could read, The GTF was created by the Town Assembly (Date) to review all governing documents and suggest changes. At the March Town Assembly, they presented a summary of suggestions for charter changes which will be discussed at this meeting. Post card will also list website to GTF and specific link to charter changes that are highlighted.
- Who will set up and run the zoom meeting during the town assembly. There are 3 people in town who know how to do it: Chris Day, Pat Toman, David Gerbec. The town voted for Zoom meeting and if they have to pay someone then it can be voted on. Right now, Chris Day has volunteered.
- Set up 50 chairs for the special town meeting.

Meeting Adjourned
 Elizabeth Resko
 Village secretary

