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# Meeting Minutes

## Natick Charter and Bylaw Review Committee

### Established, 2022 Fall Annual Town Meeting

#### 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Meeting Room – 13 East Central Street, Natick, MA

#### January 10, 2023 – 7:00 PM

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### Call to order

A meeting of Natick Charter and Bylaw Review Committee was held at 13 East Central Street -2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Meeting Room, Natick, MA on January 10, 2023, 7:00 PM.

#### Attendees:

Frank Foss, Town Moderator; Laurie Shaw, Assistant Town Clerk

#### Member Attendees:

Robert Awkward, Member; Saul Beaumont, Member; Paul Griesmer, Member; Harriet Merkowitz, Member; William Proia, Member; Paul Connolly, Associate Member, Donna McKenzie, Associate Member

#### Member Absentees:

Christine Weithman, Member; Anne Continelli, Member

### Approval of minutes

N/A

### Reports/Materials Reviewed

- Article 25 Establishing the Committee, as adopted by 2022 Fall Annual Town Meeting
- December 12, 2020 letter from Town Moderator to Town Clerk setting forth the Committee Members as appointed by the Town Moderator

### Unfinished business

N/A

### New Business

Town Moderator calls meeting to order in accordance with duly posted meeting notice and agenda.

- Agenda Item 1. Administer Oath of Office, by Town Clerk  
-Members and Associate Members are duly sworn-in by the Assistant Town Clerk.

-Members and Associate Members are informed of the requirement of Commonwealth of Massachusetts Ethics Statute Training.

- Agenda Item 2. Citizens' Concerns Appointing Authority, Town Moderator

-Town Moderator as Appointing Authority makes a few remarks to the Members regarding the Town Meeting vote creating the Committee and the applicable Town Charter provisions under which the Committee operates. Moderator recommends that the Members elect Committee Officers.

- Agenda Item 3. Organize: Elect Committee Officers

-The Moderator opened the floor for nominations for Chair. Mr. Awkward nominated Mr. Griesmer and was seconded by Mr. Beaumont. There were no other nominations. The vote was unanimous.

-Mr. Griesmer opened the floor for nominations for Vice Chair. Mr. Proia nominated Mr. Beaumont and was seconded by Mr. Awkward. There were no other nominations. The vote was unanimous.

-Mr. Griesmer opened the floor for nominations for Secretary. Mr. Awkward nominated Mr. Proia and was seconded by Mr. Beaumont. There were no other nominations. The vote was unanimous.

- Agenda Item 4. Review Committee Charge

-Members review the Committee Charge and discuss their duties thereunder. Moderator participates in the discussion suggesting that if the Committee opts to use the services to Town Counsel as permitted under the Charge, that Committee questions for Town Counsel be routed through the Committee Chair to maintain efficiency and the effective use of Town Counsel.

-Moderator also reviewed the time frame for the Committee's work, first Report to 2023 Fall Town Meeting and Committee dissolution 2024 Sprint Town Meeting.

-Member Griesmer informs the Members that the Government Study Committee established by the Select Board is a separate and distinct body not working with this Committee. Questions are raised about the Government Study Committee's purpose, charge and time line. Member Griesmer suggests that he can do some outreach on these and related questions, and report back to the Committee of possible overlaps/conflicts between the two Committees.

-Members discuss time plan for organizing the Committee's business. Members favor trying to set a regular day of the week for holding its meetings and Tuesday is the preferred day for meetings.

-Members discussed examples of topics/issues for the Committee's consideration, including

- Should elected officials also be town meeting members

- Simplifying the local process for adopting amendments to the Zoning Bylaw

- Removal/censure of town meeting members

- Number of town meeting members

- Town ombudsperson

- Appointed planning board

-Members discussed potential methods for soliciting public input regarding the Committee's charge. No methods were adopted.

-Members discussed the date and time for their next meeting, Chair to create an agenda and duly post the next meeting.

### Announcements

N/A

### Adjournment

Ms. Merkowitz moved to adjourn and was seconded by Mr. Awkward. The vote was unanimous.

s/William Proia  
Secretary – William Proia

February 23, 2023  
Date of approval