
Meeting Minutes

Natick Charter and Bylaw Review Committee

Established, 2022 Fall Annual Town Meeting

2nd Floor, Room 218 – 117 East Central Street, Natick, MA
April 4, 2023 – 7:00 PM

Call to order

A meeting of Natick Charter and Bylaw Review Committee was advertised to be held at 117 East Central Street - 2nd Floor, Room 218, Natick, MA on April 4, 2023, 7:00 PM.

Attendees:

None

Member Attendees:

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

Member Absentees:

Anne Continelli, Member

Reports/Materials Reviewed and/or Discussed

- Natick Home Rule Charter, Revised Edition, April 2022 (includes voter approved changes through 2022)
- Natick Town General Bylaws, certified as current by Town Clerk as of date of this meeting
- Published meeting minutes from the Government Study Committee [established by Select Board]
- Financial Management Review, Division of Local Services, MA Department of Review, dated February 10, 2023, addressed to Natick Select Board, under signature of Sean R. Cronin, Senior Deputy Commissioner [DLS Review]
- Richard Sidney email correspondence
- Draft Committee Report to Spring 2023 Town Meeting

Committee Business

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

- Agenda Item 1. Citizens' Concerns
N/A
- Agenda Item 4. Minutes

-Member Merkowitz moves to accept the Meeting Minutes of March 7, 2023 as drafted, 2nd by Member Weithman, the motion is adopted unanimously, except for Member Proia, who abstains.

-Member Weithman moves to accept the Meeting Minutes of February 23, 2023, 2nd by Member Merkowitz, the motion is adopted unanimously.

- Agenda Item 2, a, b and c. Committee Report to Spring 2023 Town Meeting

-The Committee discusses the following aspects of the draft Committee Report to Spring 2023 Town Meeting:

- Committee Scope, Process and Workplan
- Preliminary Issues for Further Consideration: Charter all Articles
- Preliminary Issues for Further Consideration: Bylaws, Articles 1, 2, 3, 10, 11, 20, 22 and 23 as related to analogous Charter provisions, and potential Bylaw Articles that may be advisable to adopt

-Various Members provide comments regarding ideas relative to the format and content of the draft Committee Report, and the mode of presenting the Report to Town Meeting, agreement is that the draft Committee Report will be further discussed at a subsequent meeting.

-Member Griesmer briefs the Committee on his appearance before the Finance Committee on March 28, 2023 relative to the Committee's proposed Warrant Articles. He notes the Finance Committee voted unanimously to recommend Town Meeting approve both of the Committees proposed Warrant Articles.

-Member Griesmer briefs the Committee on his conversation with the Chair of the Government Study Committee relative to the potential overlap of the two Committee's scope, and potential coordination between the two Committees.

- Agenda Item 3. Interview, Input and Information Process – Town Meeting, Town Officials, Boards and Committees, General Public

-Member Merkowitz recommends this process occur prior to the Committee's review of the Bylaw. Other Members generally support that recommendation, and agree that further discussions of this topic are to occur at subsequent Committee meetings.

Announcements

N/A

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn was duly made by Member Merkowitz and seconded by Member Awkward, the motion was adopted unanimously.

s/William Proia
Secretary – William Proia

May 16, 2023
Date of Approval
