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# Meeting Minutes

## Natick Charter and Bylaw Review Committee

### Established, 2022 Fall Annual Town Meeting

#### 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, Room 125 – 117 East Central Street, Natick, MA

#### April 18, 2023 – 7:00 PM

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### Call to order

A meeting of Natick Charter and Bylaw Review Committee was advertised to be held at 117 East Central Street - 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Room 218, Natick, MA on April 18, 2023, 7:00 PM. Upon arrival Room 218 was not available. Accordingly, a writing was posted at the entrance of 117 East Central Street, conspicuously informing interested parties that the Committee would be meeting in Room 125.

### Attendees:

Frank Foss, Town Moderator

### Member Attendees:

Saul Beaumont, Member; Paul Griesmer, Member; Harriet Merkwitz, 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]
- 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 February 28, 2023 as drafted, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Member Griesmer, 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 revisions relative to the format and content of the draft Committee Report, as authored by Member Griesmer, and the mode of presenting the Report to Town Meeting. Members Griesmer, Weithman and Proia are given specific, detailed revision assignments, and agreement is that the draft Committee Report as revised will be reviewed by the Members individually, and further public discussion will be undertaken duly if the revised Committee Report does not conform to the Committee's direction.

-Moderator Foss raises, and the Committee discusses, the issue of whether the Committee's scope and work should be expressly distinguished from that of the Government Study Committee in the Committee Report.

-Member Griesmer shares his thoughts that Member Weithman would be a good choice to appear at Town Meeting on the Committee's behalf to present the Committee Report and speak as well to the Committee's other Warrant Article. The Committee supports that role for Member Weithman, which she is considering.

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

-N/A

## 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

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May 16, 2023  
Date of Approval

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