

Approved Meeting Minutes of the Meeting of the Charter and Bylaw Review Committee (CBRC) for Thursday July 3, 2025 7:00 - 9:00 P.M.

Meeting Recording

MEETING MATERIALS

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 PM with a roll call vote of 4-0-0. In attendance was Paul Griesmer, Chris Weithman, Saul Beaumont, Harriet Merkowitz, Donna McKenzie at 7:07 PM, Bob Awkward at 7:07 PM and public attendee Jeff Alderson. It was announced the meeting is being recorded by Pegasus.

Citizen's Concerns -none came forward.

Update on Special Act - A hearing was held in the spring. There is no other news at this time. Per Mr. Greismer shared that Rep. Linsky expects the bill to be reported favorably out of committee. Mr. Greismer attended the meeting and shared his experience that in the committee moved through the hearing quickly.

Taking agenda item 6 out of order, the committee does not have a new special counsel invoice.

Taking both agenda items 4 and 5 together the committee discussed potential warrant articles and a new potential warrant article as requested by the Moderator.

The first proposed warrant article is to hear a committee report. A motion to approve the proposed warrant article was offered by Harriet and seconded by Saul. The committee passed the motion by a roll call vote 6-0-0.

The next proposed warrant article is to bring back the 2 articles referred from 2025 SATM. These warrant articles are primarily the same as what was put forward in the Spring. One warrant article sought by the Board of Health deals with underground propane tanks. The Health Department wants to regulate where these underground tanks are placed such that they won't interfere with a septic system, drainage field or wetlands. The department wants to exempt underground propane tanks from all of the fuel monitoring in the rest of the bylaw. Propane won't pollute the ground if the tank leaks as if it is a gas.

Moved by Ms. Merkowitz to accept the proposed warrant article for to modify bylaw article 81 and a proposed new section for bylaw article 22. Seconded by Mr. Beaumont. The committee voted by roll call vote of 6-0-0 to support the warrant article.

The committee had discussion regarding managing Town Meeting with Town Meeting Time. The current bylaw lists an older edition of Town Meeting Time. The 4th edition of Town Meeting Time is now available. The Moderator requests the committee review the 4th edition of Town Meeting Time as compared to the 3rd edition.

Mr. Alderson spoke about the issues related to the 3rd and 4th editions.

- 1) The current version used by town meeting [3rd edition] is no longer available.
- 2) As new TM members join they can't access the 3rd edition.
- 3) Great new discussions and guidance in the 4th edition for the Community Preservation Act management, consent agendas and execution and management

of hybrid town meeting.

- 4) Looking for the community to update the bylaw to support the new edition. The changes between the 3rd and 4th edition has changes that Natick might want to review in terms of Natick TM norms.

The links below support a review of the 4th edition changes.

- <https://massmoderators.org/tmt4/>
- https://drive.google.com/file/d/1qm1aekuPTpyyCXs_c5EkyIk79UrKaQ1j/view
- <https://drive.google.com/file/d/13ZOaF7J0SVqogsdywFpODwXBdkXfTGUM/view>

The committee asked a few questions regarding the 4th edition.

With respect to Natick's management of 'Moving the question' the two additions are essentially the same. In Fall 2025 Natick Town Meeting Natick passed a new bylaw to 'move the question. Once the state Attorney General approves the revised bylaw, Natick will manage this motion per the updated bylaw.

Mr. Greismer reviewed the document Appendix c which maps the differences between the 2 editions. Many changes are small such as re-numbering or addition of sub-headers.

These is a new section on challenges to the moderator's rulings.

The committee's task is a compare and contrast.

One change indicates that a second is not required for a motion to be discussed.

A proposed Warrant article allows for potential motions related to the 4th edition and how it impacts Natick Town Meeting.

Committee discussion re Town Meeting Time took place. The 3rd edition was published in 2001. Natick has been following the 3rd edition for 24 years.

It was suggested that changes that are new should be reviewed against the current bylaw to determine if the changes are either too restrictive, too permissive or just right. The town may want to consider bylaw changes to manage TM like Natick wishes to manage the meeting based on the text in the 4th edition.

Mr. Greismer shared a proposed warrant article regarding the 4th edition of Town Meeting Time. The committee discussed this text. The committee edited the proposed warrant article during the meeting. A motion was put forward by Mr. Awkward and seconded by Ms. McKenzie to support the Warrant article, as edited during the meeting, related to the 4th edition of Town Meeting Time. The motion passed 6-0-0 by roll call vote.

The committee handled outstanding Meeting Minutes

A motion to accept the meeting minutes of February 18, 2025 was offered by xx and seconded by xx was approved in a 5-0-1 roll call vote.

A motion to accept the meeting minutes of April 24, 2025 was offered by xx and seconded by xx and approved in a roll call vote 4-0-2.

A motion to accept the meeting minutes of May 5, 2025 was offered by xx and seconded by xx

and approved by a roll call vote of 4-0-2.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was offered by Ms. Merkowitz and seconded by Mr. Beaumont. The meeting was adjourned by roll call vote at 8:25 PM 6-0-0.

Respectfully submitted:



Christine Weithman
Secretary, Charter and Bylaw Review Committee

Date approved:

October 16, 2025