Town Charter Commission Meeting

Freedom Maine

Minutes from May 4, 2022

Present: Tyler Hadyniak, Ellie MacMakin, Mary Ann Bennett, Joe Freeman, Tim Biggs, Bill Pickford

Meeting called to order at 6:05

Review of last meeting minutes. Tyler moved to accept minutes as presented, Mary Ann seconded. Motion carried.

Discussion Points

Bill brought up a question of whether we should be working online with edits and revisions because as a town committee, that could be considered working outside of a formal meeting and at least one member does not have internet access. After discussion, the group decided that could be a potential problem

The group also discussed as we continue work on the charter should we change things such as adding more people to the select board, or leave the governing process as it is to avoid controversy when it comes time to have the town vote.

There was a suggestion to find one of the charters we really like and get the basic organization decided.

It was decided that we liked the format in the Danforth charter.

It was also suggested that perhaps it would be best to have one person do the actual editing after decisions were made at meetings.

Tyler made a motion to incorporate existing ordinances and policies by reference rather than include them all within the charter. Mary Ann seconded. The motion was carried and was approved.

After much discussion on whether we needed an introduction, it was also decided to table that agenda item on whether to have an introduction or preamble.

Action Items

Look at the formats of the tables of contents and decide which we like from our sample Town Charters. Ellie really liked the format of Danforth's charter Review the Saint George and Danforth Charters and cross out the parts that do not apply to us and we will discuss at our next meeting.

Think about whether we want to add a position of a paid administrator/grant writer

Meeting was adjourned at 7:22