

TOWN OF WINCHENDON
CHARTER BYLAW REVIEW COMMITTEE MINUTES
Tuesday, January 5, 2021 3:00 P.M.
Held Remotely via Zoom

Approved: 1-19-2021

WINCHENDON TOWN CLERK
RCUD JAN 21 2021 PM3:51

Present:

Dr. Maureen Ward, Chair, Taylor Tower, Secretary, Don O'Neil, Callie Knowler, David Alexander, Chief David Walsh, Karen Kast

Absent: None

List of Documents Presented at Meeting:

- Current Town Charter
- Current Town Bylaw

- 1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF DECEMBER 15, 2020** – Ms. Knowler moved to approve the minutes of December 15, 2020, seconded by Chief Walsh. With a vote of Dr. Ward, aye, Chief Walsh, aye, Ms. Knowler, aye, Mr. O'Neil, aye, Ms. Tower, aye and Mr. Alexander, abstain, the motion carried 5-0-1.
- 2. DISCUSSION/RECOMMENDATIONS ON BYLAWS 1-12** –

Mr. Alexander noted a typo to be corrected by Ms. Tower.

Under section 1.4, Dr. Ward proposed to change the word “then” in the sentence “then registered as voters” to be “currently registered as voters” to help the sentence read better.

Kast joined the meeting at 3:04 p.m.

Under section 2.9, article D, the last sentence says that the Town Manager and the Finance Committee are to be invited to attend all meetings where Capital Projects are reviewed. That has never happened, and while the Capital Planning Committee is charged with reviewing capital expenses, they don't actually have any authority to expend funds. Town Manager approval would be necessary either way. It was moved to strike that last sentence.

Under section 2.12, televising of meetings, Dr. Ward questioned the third sentence that says “Board of Health ... shall be broadcast live unless by a vote of 2/3...”. In case of emergency conditions in which Town Hall is closed, the meeting will not be broadcast live. In the past, some Committees have not been aware of this bylaw and have held their meeting without conducting said vote. It was moved to strike from “by a two-thirds vote...” to “because” so that it reads “all meetings of the Board of Selectmen ... shall be broadcast live over the local able channel television network unless there are emergency conditions or some substantial reason”.

Under section 2.15, it was moved to add a comment after “police officers shall” it will add subordinate type clauses and make the sentence easier to read. The comma after “bylaws” will be stricken.

Mr. Alexander moved to accept the changes as presented to article 2, seconded by Mr. O'Neil. With a vote of all aye, the motion carried unanimously.

Under section 3.3, it was moved to add that the warrant be posted to the website. Section 1.1 will also be updated to keep it consistent.

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Referring to article 12, Regulation of Watercraft, Chief Walsh said that they only mirror state laws and it's almost redundant. He will provide written recommendations for the next meeting.

3. **SCOPE OF JANUARY 19th MEETING:** Chief Walsh noted some concerns about the Scrap Metal bylaws, specifically storage. This topic will be addressed at the January 19th meeting. This meeting will entail review of articles 13 through 20, with the addition of article 33.
4. **MEMBER COMMENTS** – None were heard.
5. **ADJOURNMENT** – Mr. O'Neil motioned to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Alexander. With a vote of all aye, the meeting adjourned at 3:36 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Taylor Tower
Recording Secretary