

Charter Committee Meeting Minutes from September 13, 2023

Meeting called to order at 10:05 am.

Present: Melissa Bye, Barbara Cormier, Douglas Miner, Brigitte Ruthman.

Also Present: ex officio: Jonathan Sylbert.

Motion was made, duly seconded and unanimously approved to accept minutes of 9/7/23.

Discussed recent draft of the Charter and the Collin's Center comments-specifically town meetings and citizen petitions.

Barbara brought forth a citizen's concern regarding audits that aren't "clean audits" (which going forward, will be referred to as "qualified and unqualified" audits), and who exactly will follow up on audits that show areas that need improvement. Jon agreed to document the exact process regarding how audits work. It was noted that audits cost the town \$20,000- a sum that should act as a deterrent to having audits that show deficiencies.

Barbara brought forth another concern from a citizen. How will the charter address consequences from illegal actions? Jon will reach out to the Collin's Center to see if language from our by laws concerning this issue can be inserted.

Douglas discussed his preliminary draft in response to Larry Dwyer's article in the Sandisfield Times. Douglas offered a very detailed explanation of the article "Dispelling the Myth of Home Rule", which Larry used to make many of his arguments.

Brigitte shared a summary of her letter to the Sandisfield Times.

Melissa read her letter to the Sandisfield Times.

The committee agreed to meet on September 20 at 7pm to discuss the final draft of the response to the Sandisfield Times.

Possible dates in October (10/10, or 10/16) were discussed for a joint meeting with the Select Board.

Motion made and unanimously accepted to adjourn at 11:40am.

Respectfully submitted, Melissa Bye