

**Essex Charter Review Committee Meeting Minutes
(Draft)**

Town of Essex Charter Review Committee
Draft Regular Meeting Minutes
Tuesday October 11, 2022

Charter Review Committee: Lauren Layman, Charles Tabone, Alexis Dubief, Bruce Post, Margaret Smith, Dawn Hill-Fleury (on Teams).

Administration and Staff: Tammy Getchell (on Teams)

Others Present: At Meeting - Daniel Parkins, On Teams – Lorraine Zaloom, Leonora Dodge, Tom Proctor, Gina Halpin

1. Call to Order

- a. Ms. Layman called the Essex Charter Review Committee to order at 5:41 PM.

2. Agenda Additions/Changes

- a. None.

3. Approve Minutes

- a. Ms. Smith made a motion seconded by Ms. Dubief to approve minutes: October 04, 2022. Motion passed 5-0.

4. Public Comment

- a. Leonora Dodge
 - i. Asked the committee to consider adding Just Cause Eviction to the Charter.
- b. Tom Proctor – Housing Justice Organizer – Vermont for Rights & Democracy
 - i. Tom gave a brief overview of Just Cause Eviction and offered any assistance we may need to better understand how this applies to the Charter.
- c. Lorraine Zaloom
 - i. Brattleboro Charter 24 App. V.S.A. ch. 107, § 6.04 has information on filling vacancies that might be helpful.
 - ii. Concerned about not having a town newspaper for Public Announcements.
 - iii. Concerned that due to tight timeline the Charter committee may not be able to get enough public input and that could cause misunderstandings.
- d. Daniel Parkins – Community Wealth Development LLC
 - i. New to Essex.
 - ii. Spoke about his experience with the Carter Center in Liberia

5. Member Recommendations to Charter

- a. Mr. Post
 - i. § 117-206 (a) (1) Changing ZBA to DRB.
 - ii. § 117-903 Possibly needs stronger language.
 - 1. Possibly § 307 of the merger Charter can provide this.
 - iii. Voting districts and neighborhood assemblies.
 - iv. Less Selectboard Executive Sessions.
- b. Ms. Dubief
 - i. We are one town and more alike than different.

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- 45 ii. We need more local engagement.
- 46 iii. We need more transparency.
- 47 iv. Consider changing language that creates a barrier to government to the
- 48 public.
- 49 c. Ms. Smith
- 50 i. Recall provision
- 51 ii. Less Selectboard Executive Sessions.
- 52 iii. § 117-206 (a) (1) Changing ZBA to DRB.
- 53 iv. Town newspaper and communication for public announcements.
- 54 d. Ms. Layman
- 55 i. Charter organization for clarity and flow
- 56 ii. More transparency
- 57 iii. More local engagement in government
- 58 e. Mr. Tabone
- 59 i. § 117-206 (a) (1) Changing ZBA to DRB.
- 60 ii. Completing basic Charter changes
- 61 iii. Consider creating a Charter guide in simple language to explain what each
- 62 section means in lay terms.
- 63 **6. Next Meeting**
- 64 a. The next scheduled meeting of the Essex Charter Review Committee is scheduled for
- 65 Tuesday, October 18, 2022, at 5:30 PM at Town of Essex 1st Floor Conference Room.
- 66 **7. Adjourn**
- 67 a. Mr. Post made a motion seconded by Ms. Dubief to close the meeting. Motion
- 68 passed 5-0.
- 69 b. Meeting Adjourned 7:32 PM.
- 70
- 71 Respectfully Submitted,
- 72 Charles Tabone
- 73 Minute taker