



Town of Essex
Charter Review Committee
Phone: (802) 878-1341
Email: manager@essex.org

AGENDA

Wednesday, January 24, 2024 – 6:30 PM
81 Main St., Essex Junction, VT 05452

This meeting will be in person and online. Available options to watch or join the meeting:

- **JOIN ONLINE:** [Zoom Meeting ID: 848 1805 6720 | Passcode: 642284](#)
- **JOIN CALLING:** (*toll free audio only*): (888) 788-0099 | Meeting ID: 848 1805 6720; Passcode: 642284

This agenda is available in alternative formats upon request.

1. **CALL TO ORDER** 6:30 PM
2. **REORGANIZATION**
 - a. Elect Chair, Secretary
3. **AGENDA ADDITIONS/CHANGES**
4. **APPROVE AGENDA**
5. **PUBLIC TO BE HEARD**
 - a. Comments from the public on items not on Agenda
6. **BUSINESS ITEMS**
 - a. Review task from Selectboard and consider approval of meeting schedule
 - b. Discuss Selectboard comments on the proposed Preamble and Sections 1 and 2
7. **READING FILE**
 - a. Update on Legislative Session for 2023 proposed charter amendments
8. **ADJOURN**

Essex Charter Review Committee Meeting Minutes

Town of Essex Charter Review Committee
Regular Meeting Minutes
Wednesday January 24, 2024

Charter Review Committee: Charles Tabone, Bruce Post, Margaret Smith, Dawn Hill-Fleury. (Ex-Officio)

Administration and Staff: Tammy Getchell – Assistant to the Manager

Others Present: At Meeting – None. On Zoom – Patty Davis

1. Call to Order

- a. Ms. Getchell called the Essex Charter Review Committee to order at 6:34 PM.

2. Reorganization

- a. **Ms. Smith made a motion seconded by Mr. Tabone to appoint Mr. Post as Chair for the committee. Motion passed 3-0**
- b. **Mr. Post made a motion seconded by Ms. Smith to appoint Mr. Tabone as Secretary for the committee. Motion passed 3-0**

3. Agenda Additions/Changes

- a. Changed item 6.a. to 6.b. and 6.b to 6.a
- b. **Ms. Smith made a motion seconded by Mr. Tabone to approve minutes as amended: January 24, 2024. Motion passed 3-0**

4. Approve Minutes

- a. No prior minutes to approve

5. Public To Be Heard

- a. Ms. Davis pointed out that Charter is law and pointed out that South Burlington approved an addition Impact Fee's to their Charter and feels we should consider doing the same in Essex.

6. Business Items

- a. New Charter Members. There was discussion on adding additional members to the committee to replace the two members that recused themselves.
Ms. Smith made a motion seconded by Mr. Tabone for Mr. Post to send a note to the Selectboard regarding this item. Motion passed 3-0
- b. Approve meeting schedule. The following meeting and important dates schedule were introduced and discussed. Meetings: February 28, March 27, April 24, May 22, June 26, July 24, all in 2024. Important Dates: Present Charter to Selectboard on August 5, 2024. Deadline for Selectboard to warn public hearings December 2, 2024. Town meeting day March 4, 2025.
Ms. Smith made a motion seconded by Mr. Tabone to approve the meeting and important date schedule. Motion passed 3-0.
- c. Discuss Selectboard comments on Preamble and Section 2.
 - i. Preamble
 - 1. *Comment (GD1): SB (8/7/23): more discussion needed about whether to add the Preamble was discussed by the committee*

Essex Charter Review Committee Meeting Minutes

Ms. Smith made a motion seconded by Mr. Tabone to strike the recommendation to add a Preamble to the Charter. Motion passed 2-1. Mr. Post nay.

ii. Subchapter 1:

1. § 117-101 – Comment (GD2) and (GD3R2) in reference to annexation procedures was discussed.

This Committee Approves of these comments to keep the existing language from the existing charter; no deletions

2. § 117-103 (a) – Comment (GD4) in reference to Powers of the Town was discussed.

This Committee Approves of this comment and accepts the proposed changes.

3. § 117-103 (d) – Comments (GD5) and (GD6R5) in reference to Electric Power Systems was discussed.

The Committee Approves these comments to keep the language from the existing charter; no deletions.

4. § 117-105 Comment (GD7) in reference to Reservation of powers to the Town. No action necessary.

5. § 117-106 (a) – Comment (GD9) moved to section 304. No action necessary currently

6. § 117-106 (b) – Comments (GD8) and (GD10). This section is not within the scope of this Committee. No action necessary.

7. § 117-107 Comment (GD11) in reference to Just Cause Eviction. This section has been removed from the Charter. No action necessary.

7. Reading File

- a. Update on Legislative Session for 2023 proposed charter amendments was reviewed and discussed.

8. Next Meeting

- a. The next meeting of the Essex Charter Review Committee is scheduled for Wednesday, February 28, 2024, 6:30 PM at Town of Essex 1st Floor Conference room.

9. Adjourn

- a. **Ms. Smith made a motion seconded by Mr. Tabone to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed 3-0.**
- b. Meeting Adjourned 7:38 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Charles Tabone
Secretary