

Approved: 1/13/2016

Charter Review Committee
Town of Jamestown, Rhode Island
Minutes of the December 16, 2015 Meeting

The meeting of the Jamestown Charter Review Committee was held at the Jamestown Town Hall, in the Rosamond A. Tefft Council Chambers, 93 Narragansett Avenue, Jamestown, RI. The Committee Chairman, Arlene Petit, called the meeting to order at 4:34 PM.

I. ROLL CALL

The Chairman called the roll and noted the following members were present:

Arlene D. Petit, Chairman
James Rugh, Co-Chairman
Anthony Antine
Blake A. Dickinson
John Pagano
Mary Lou Sanborn
Edward Gromada, Secretary

Mary E. Meagher (Ex Officio Member)

II. MINUTES

A motion was made by Jim Rugh and seconded by Blake Dickinson to accept the amended minutes from the meeting of December 2, 2015. Tony Antine, Blake Dickinson, Ed Gromada, John Pagano, Arlene Petit, Jim Rugh and Mary Lou Sanborn voted in favor of the motion. Time of motion 4:41 PM.

III. OLD BUSINESS

- A) The following Sections were reviewed by the Committee:
- a. Section 422. Mary Meagher reported on her review of the wording of this Section. There is confusion between the wording of "a free and public library" and the "Jamestown Philomenian Library." Philomenian is a made up word and it isn't referenced in State Law. Adding further confusion is the "Editor's note" to this Section. The note is not actually part of the charter so the Committee doesn't have the authority to remove it. The Editor's Note matter will be sent to the Town Solicitor for advisement.

Additionally, Mary Lou Sanborn will investigate the wording in State Law, Title 29-4 and report back to the Committee on January 13, 2015.

- b. Section 418. Blake Dickinson provided an additional paragraph to this Section to include an audited financial statement requirement from the Fire Department's 501(c)3 charitable organization. The Town does not receive an annual financial report from the charity. The Committee felt the Town should receive such a report, but saw no reason to require the Fire Department to invest in an audited report. The Committee, further, felt an IRS submitted tax return would suffice for this requirement. Ed Gromada will rewrite this sub-section for the next meeting.

IV. NEW BUSINESS


A) The following Sections were reviewed by the Committee:

- a. Section 1086. This is a new Section. It does not exist in the Charter and it is being introduced by Blake Dickinson as a process to change the Financial Town Meeting such that the Jamestown's electors become a more integral part of the annual budget acceptance process. The Committee thought the proposal, as brought forward, was too involved and too cumbersome, however, they thought the idea of enhancing the current The Financial Town Meeting process deserved further investigation. The Committee will review additional proposals on this matter from its members at its next meeting.
- b. Section 1105. Had no revisions necessary.
- c. Section 1201. Had no revisions necessary.
- d. Section 1202. Had no revisions necessary.
- e. Section 1203. Had no revisions necessary.
- f. Section 1301. Had no revisions necessary.
- g. Section 1302. Had no revisions necessary.
- h. Section 1303. Had no revisions necessary.
- i. Section 1304. Had no revisions necessary.
- j. Section 1305. Had no revisions necessary.

B) The next meeting is scheduled for January 13, 2014 at 4:30 PM.

V. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Jim Rugh, and seconded by Mary Lou Sanborn to adjourn the meeting. Anthony Antine, Blake Dickinson, Edward Gromada, John Pagano, Jim Rugh, Arlene Petit and Mary Lou Sanborn voted in favor of the motion. The meeting adjourned at 5:58 PM.



Secretary