

Town of Hartford, Vermont
5th Charter Commission
Minutes of 16 Sept 2022

Present: Committee members: F. X. Flinn; Lynn Bohi; Dan Nott; Lannie Collins, Nancy Russell, Gabrielle Lucke. Dan Nott and Michele Boleski were unable to attend. All were on Zoom; there were no other participants.

Meeting called to order at 10:04 AM.

1. Adopted the minutes from previous meeting by unanimous consent.
2. Gabrielle Lucke presented her analysis of section 302, the town manager job description. She recommended moving a few of the items into the Town Manager part of the Appointed Officials section and otherwise deleting the specific provisions. The charter should reiterate the powers conveyed by state law but the specific charges listed in 302 are matters for a town job profile in general and a contract between the town and Town Manager for a specific person. The committee reached consensus on this approach and Gabrielle provided her draft to F. X. for guidance on preparing the draft.
3. Committee discussed whether there should be a residency requirement on Town Meeting Committee members and by consensus determined that in line with the principle that we don't want to have to change the Charter if the School District expands to include other municipalities, we shouldn't put that requirement in. Otherwise, it is highly improbable that either board would appoint someone not a town resident or that someone not from town would be interested in the work.
4. Committee agreed to add 'not limited to' in 3D of committees to make it abundantly clear that the list was not an exclusive list of committees. 3A makes clear that any committee can be created by the Selectboard, so the addition to 3D is in the spirit of belt and suspenders.
5. Committee consensus was to add language explicitly allowing the town to collect sales tax on cannabis products if the state authorizes towns to do so. Further, it also reached consensus on recommending that the local option taxes language be expanded to include regular sales tax, as a separate item to be voted on from the charter rewrite. This will enable the town to capture cannabis sales tax under present law, and if a sales tax on cannabis is switched to its own local option tax, such capture would continue uninterrupted as a charter change would not be necessary. Again, belt and suspenders.
6. The committee reviewed a slide deck FXF prepared for the next meeting of the committee on Sept 22.
7. The committee reviewed schedule for presenting to the boards and having the attorney review.

Meeting adjourned 11:59 am.