



## Town of Reading Meeting Minutes

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### Board - Committee - Commission - Council:

#### Charter Review Committee

Date: 2023-10-30

Time: 7:00 PM

Building: Reading Town Hall

Location: Conference Room

Address: 16 Lowell Street

Session: Open Session

Purpose: General Business

Version: Final

#### Attendees: **Members - Present:**

Chair Chris Haley, Vice Chair Phil Pacino, Jesse Arnold, Jonathan Barnes (remote), Geoff Beckwith, Bill Brown, Alan Foulds, Andrew Grimes

#### **Members - Not Present:**

Chuck Robinson

#### **Others Present:**

Town Clerk Laura Gemme, Assistant Town Manager Matt Kraunelis

**Minutes Respectfully Submitted By:** Caitlin Saunders

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### Topics of Discussion:

Haley noted Town Counsel sent in some comments that he will elaborate on when they get to each section. The board started editing section 1 with Town Clerk Laura Gemme tracking changes on the Charter document as they go along.

A change throughout the document will be to replace Board of Selectmen with Select Board. They will also make all terms gender neutral throughout the document.

Jonathan Barnes made a comment about the 'majority vote' term; in Section 4, specifically in regards to the Historical Commission, he would like them to put a specific number of members instead of the current wording.

The committee started editing Article 2. The board discussed the mention of 8 precincts in Article 2.1. The Town is close to needing 9 precincts. Gemme noted the State says if you need to adjust to add a new precinct in the future, it doesn't matter what your Charter says. Haley noted he will check with Town Counsel to see if they should pursue this or not.

In Article 2.4, the group discussed the words 'may' vs. 'shall' and which should be used. Haley will ask Town Counsel for their opinion on 'local news medium' under the vacancies section of 2.6.

#### Minutes

The board discussed the previous meeting minutes.

Motion to approve the meeting minutes as written, second by Arnold. The motion passed with a unanimous roll call vote.

#### Future Agendas

The next meeting will be November 14<sup>th</sup>.

Motion to adjourn at 9:18 PM, second by Arnold. The motion passed with a unanimous roll call vote.