



Town of Reading Meeting Minutes

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Board - Committee - Commission - Council:

Charter Review Committee

Date: 2024-01-08

Time: 7:00 PM

Building: Reading Town Hall

Location: Berger 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, Bill Brown (remtote), Geoff Beckwith (remote), Alan Foulds, Chuck Robinson

Members - Not Present:

Andrew Grimes

Others Present:

Town Clerk Laura Gemme, David Zeek, Gregg Phipps

Minutes Respectfully Submitted By: Caitlin Nocella

Topics of Discussion:

David Zeek gave the board a presentation on election recounts. He is suggesting if the election is close, we should consider an automatic recount. On the other side, he suggests the petitioner of a recount that is more than 1% difference in votes, should have to pay for the recount themselves.

The board discussed whether it be more appropriate to make it harder/require more signatures for larger percentage gaps vs. making them pay. They also discussed the State's regulations on this and maybe they should just follow those.

Town Clerk Laura Gemme noted she would be against an automatic recount because it would lead to them happening regularly.

Gregg Phipps, RMLD General Manager, gave the board a presentation on his suggestions for the Charter. His changes were mostly administrative in nature for Section 3.5.

The board went on to discuss and make small changes to Article 7 and 8. Mostly correcting grammar and continuing to make the document gender neutral.

Jesse Arnold submitted a few suggestions to 8.11.2 Recall Petition. The board discussed her comments.

Minutes

The board approved the meeting minutes as presented with a unanimous roll call vote.

Future Meetings

The board discussed moving the meeting on the 22nd to the 29th to not compete with the Killam Building Committee meeting. They also discussed having Counsel come to a meeting soon to discuss some of the questions they had.

The board adjourned at 10:35 PM with a unanimous roll call vote.