

**Town of Bennington
Charter Review Committee**

**Friday, July 21, 2017
12:00 p.m.**

**Town of Bennington Conference Room
205 South Street
Bennington, Vermont 05201**

MINUTES

Members Present: Jon Cohen, Robert Ebert, Lynn Green, Michael Keane, Dan Malmberg, Sean-Marie Oller, Robert Plunkett

Also Present: Dan Monks, Tom Jacobs, Ed Damon

Meeting was called to order at 12:00 p.m.

Introductions & Organization of Committee: All of the members of the committee introduced themselves. Dan Malmberg nominated Sean-Marie Oller and Robert Plunkett as Co-Chairs of the committee, Michael Keane seconded the nomination. They were elected by a unanimous vote.

Method of Communication: All were made aware that the open meeting law applied to the Charter Review Committee. It was suggested that a group e-mail be created by the Town for them to use, so that all e-mail correspondence was located on the town's e-mail server. The committee also requested that a link for the committee be created on the Town's website. Information regarding the committee's work and requests for public input will be placed on the Town's website.

Establish Meeting Dates & Times: The committee agreed that, commencing on August 2nd, 2017, they would meet, at least initially, on Wednesday's from 11:45 am to 1:15 pm. The committee requested that town staff ask Jim Barlow, an attorney specializing in Municipal law, to attend the August 2nd meeting to facilitate their review of the Charter. The Co-Chairs will work with staff and Mr. Barlow to prepare an agenda for the August 2nd meeting.

Information requested by the Committee: The committee discussed the topics that they may wish to consider including the Downtown Improvement District and the advisability of a mayoral system of government. The committee requested that staff develop a list of Vermont Towns with a mayoral system of government, a list of towns with a town manager system of government, and staff recommendations of charter issues to consider. The committee members agreed that they would each review the Charter again and make a list of sections/issues that they would like the committee to consider.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 1:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted

Daniel W. Monks
Asst. Town Manager