

Meeting of the Wells River Charter Committee

January 13th 2022

Committee members present: Richard Roderick, Brian Emerson, Chip Conquest. No members of the public in attendance.

Meeting called to order at 4:15.

Minutes of the December 30th 2021 meeting were accepted.

The Committee revisited sec. 16 - Village Trustees; Power to Appoint, which we had proposed to eliminate in its entirety at the last meeting. Discussion ensued about whether to leave in this section a general power to appoint village officials that the Trustees deem necessary for the welfare of the Village. The Committee agreed to leave the proposal to eliminate the entirety of section 16 in place, but will check with the Village attorney to ensure that the Trustees' general power to appoint officials exists elsewhere.

The Committee also revisited sec. 6 – Village Officers, as we had planned to do after the initial discussion and proposal to make the offices of Clerk and Treasurer appointed, rather than elected positions. A motion was made to reconsider the two offices separately and to take up the Clerk position first. Discussion revolved around whether Wells River has a sufficient population base to make it likely that people with the requisite abilities will put themselves forward for election to the positions. The Committee also discussed the benefits of having a Village resident serve in those positions.

The Committee voted on a motion to give the Trustees the authority to appoint a Village Clerk. Motion passed, 2 in favor, one opposed.

A motion was made to give the Trustees the authority to appoint a Village Treasurer. Motion passed, 2 in favor, one opposed.

A motion was made to have Brian convey to the other Trustees that the Committee believes that it is not feasible to vote on the charter amendment at the annual Village meeting, and that a special meeting for that purpose should be called sometime after the annual meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 5:30