

Town of Darien
Representative Town Meeting
Rules Committee
Regular Meeting-Monday, April 11, 2011
Draft

Attendance: Karen Armour (Ch), Gary Swenson, Seth Morton, Mary Guimond, Joanne Hennessy, Debra Ritchie, Peter Kelly, John Bishko, Marc Thorne, Dennis Maroney, Anita Rycenga

Absent: MariLu Cleary, Martin Magida

Audience: Sarah Seelye, Frank Penn, Cecelia Mundt, Pam Zangrillo

Call to Order: Ms Armour called the meeting to order at 8:05PM

Charter Revision: Mr. Kemp and Ms Seelye reported on the presentation at the RTM meeting on tidying up the Charter. The Committee noted that Mr. Kemp made an outstanding presentation to the RTM.

Mr. Kemp then gave a brief history of the evolution of the Charter from 1820 to present. He outlined the principles under which the TGS&A Committee would proceed to revise the Charter:

1. Moving elements from the Charter to Ordinances where they could be more easily managed.
2. Make Technical corrections
3. Improve the layout and presentation
4. Remove obsolete elements.
5. Stay away from points which led to defeating Charter Revision in the past.

Mr. Kemp asked the Rules Committee to take on Sections 48 to 58 and Appendix B of the Charter for revision. The timing would be to have a document for a Public Hearing in July in time for a vote at the RTM Meeting in September.

Charter Revision Motion: Ms Armour proposed that a Committee of Messrs.Thorne, Morton, Maroney, Swenson and Ms Armour and Ms Guimond be formed to take on this task. Ms Rycenga moved that those mentioned be a committee formed to revise Sections 48 to 58 of the Charter and Appendix B to be ready for Public Hearing in July and presentation to the RTM in September. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Animal Control: Ms Armour reported on a meeting with the Darien Chief of Police and the Chair of the Park and Recreation Commission. They are working on how animal control rules would work, seasonal hours and timing. The Commission is expecting to have a public hearing on proposed regulations in May and to vote the regulations in June. October 1 would be the target date to become effective.

Board of Education Deficit: Mr. Maroney moved and it was seconded that Education be primary on this item and Finance and Budget Committee be secondary. The motion passed unanimously.

Flood and Erosion Control: Dialogue continues on this subject with a letter from Peter Hillman Chair of the Environmental Protection Commission wondering where the FECB stands. Ms Armour agreed to talk to the Board of Selectmen.

New Member RTM Assignments: Mr. Swenson moved and it was seconded, that Ted Hilton, District 2, be assigned to the Public Works Committee, Jan Hardison, District 4 be assigned to the Park and Rec Committee and Lucy Fiore, District 4 be assigned to Park and Rec Committee.

Agenda for May RTM Meeting: Mr. Maroney moved the following order for the May Budget Meeting:

1. Board of Education Deficit
2. Town of Darien Budget
 - a. Board of Education Operating Budget
 - b. Selectmen's Operating Budget
 - c. Capital Expenditures Budget
 - d. Mill Rate
 - e. Bonding Resolution
 - f. Fee Schedule-Appendix D

The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Other Business: Choose to Reuse—Ms Rycenga reported briefly on a project to make using plastic bags in Darien stores illegal. It was agreed to await definition from the Board of selectmen before assigning committees to this item.

The Meeting was adjourned at 9:46PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Clerk