



**TOWN OF MORRISTOWN TOWN CHARTER COMMITTEE  
MEETING NOTICE & AGENDA  
COMMUNITY MEETING ROOM**  
On Zoom and at 43 Portland St. Morrisville, VT 05661  
**4:30 PM Monday, February 26, 2024**

[Join Zoom Meeting](#) or by phone join via conference call (audio only): 1 (646) 558-8656 | Meeting ID: [810 342 4528](#) |

- I. 4:30PM - CALL TO ORDER**
- II. 4:31PM - AGENDA CHANGES/ADDITIONS**
- III. 4:32PM - APPROVE MINUTES**
  - 1. Approve minutes 1-29-24
- IV. 4:35PM - NEW BUSINESS**
- V. 4:36PM - OLD BUSINESS**
  - 1. Morristown Charter 2nd draft - review
- VI. 4:56PM - OTHER BUSINESS**
- VII. 5:00PM - ADJOURN**



**CHARTER COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES  
OF JANUARY 29, 2024**

Members: Judy Bickford, Don McDowell, Laura Streets, Richard Craig, Sara Haskins, Brian Yeaton, Christopher Moks, Craig Santenello

Absent: Chris Palermo

Guests: Martin Green, Laura Green, Donnie Blake, Tony Cote, Kristin Marriott, Jamie Jared, Melissa LeBlanc, Dan McLaughlin

*\*participating via Zoom*

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**5:45PM - CALL TO ORDER**

Judy Bickford called the Charter Committee Meeting to order at 5:48PM at the Tegu Building.

**5:46PM - AGENDA CHANGES/ADDITIONS**

None

**5:47PM - APPROVE MINUTES**

This is the first meeting of the committee, so there are no minutes to approve.

**5:48PM - NEW BUSINESS**

**1. Morristown Charter draft - review**

The Town Charter committee met for the first time to explore the adoption of a town charter and a local option tax. Interim town manager, Carrie Johnson, presented a draft charter for the committee to use a starting point for review. Carrie shared information about her experience creating a charter for the Town of St Albans. The advice from the town attorney is to keep the initial charter simple and to use language already approved in other municipal charters. The committee reviewed the presented draft. It had five sections, 1: Corporate existence retained; 2: General law application; 3: Local option tax; 4: Town Manager; and 5: Recall. The first two sections are standard language to include in all charters and the committee seemed in favor of including them as presented. The committee asked if section 3 could be changed from a set amount to up to the state limit. Section 4 and 5 ensued much discussion. Some committee members expressed their desire to see section 4 defined with a deeper scope and that section 5 have a more defined description of what the reason would be to recall someone.

The committee members will research charters of similar sized towns and bring back ideas for the next meeting scheduled for February 26, 2024 at 4:30pm.

**6:10PM - OLD BUSINESS**

none

**6:11PM - OTHER BUSINESS**

none

**6:12PM - ADJOURN**

*Please note all minutes are in Draft form and are subject to approval at the next Town Manager Search Committee meeting.*



## **2<sup>nd</sup> Draft Charter 2/26/24**

### **§ 1. Corporate existence retained**

The inhabitants of the Town of Morrilltown, within the corporate limits now established, shall continue to be a municipal corporation by the name of the Town of Morrilltown.

### **§ 2. General law; application**

Except when changed or modified by this charter, or by any lawful regulation or ordinance of the Town of Morrilltown, all of the statutes of the State relating to municipalities shall apply to the Town of Morrilltown.

### **§ 3. Local option tax**

- (a) If the Selectboard of the Town of Morrilltown by a majority vote recommends, the voters of the Town may, at an annual or special meeting warned for the purpose, by a majority vote of those present and voting, assess any or all of the following:
  - (1) a one-percent sales tax;
  - (2) a one-percent meals and alcoholic beverages tax;
  - (3) a one-percent rooms tax.
- (b) Any local option tax assessed under subsection (a) of this section shall be collected and administered and may be rescinded as provided by the general laws of the State.

### **§ 4. Town Manager**

- (a) The Town Manager shall be the chief executive officer and the head of the administrative branch of the Town government and shall be responsible to the Selectboard for the efficient administration of the municipal affairs of the Town.
- (b) The Town Manager shall have authority to hire, appoint, discipline, and remove all Town employees, subject to the provisions of personnel rules approved by the Selectboard. The Town Manager may authorize a department head to hire, appoint, discipline, or remove an employee, subject to the Manager's discretion and supervision.



## § 5. Recall

- (a) The voters of the Town may recall any elected Town officers.
- (b) A recall petition, clearly stating cause, signed by at least 30 percent of the legal voters of the Town, and bearing their addresses, shall be filed with the Selectboard within 15 calendar days of its issue. The Selectboard upon receipt of a valid petition shall, after 60 calendar days, hold a special election, with voting by Australian Ballot, to consider the recall of an elected Town officer. When such a petition is approved by a majority of two-thirds of the ballots cast at such special election, the officer named in the petition shall thereupon cease to hold their office, and the office shall be considered vacant until filled by a special election to be held within 60 days.
- (c) A recall petition shall not be brought against an individual more than once during their term of office.