

Carlisle Governance Task Force Minutes for Meeting of May 12, 2022

The meeting was held remotely by Zoom with no physical location, and was called to order at 9:07am. As the meeting was held remotely, all votes as noted below were taken by roll call.

Present: Chair Rebekah Vieira, Vice Vanessa Moroney (arrived at 9:08am), and Members Paul Anagnostopoulos, Brian Cruise and Kyle Dalbec.

Also in attendance: Moderator Wayne Davis.

All public documents of the Task Force are found at:

<https://carlislema.sharepoint.com/:f:/r/sites/GovernanceTaskForce/Shared%20Documents/Governance%20Task%20Force%20Public%20Documents?csf=1&web=1&e=grdx8y>

Discussion with Moderator Wayne Davis

The meeting was opened by noting that Member RJ Mathew had resigned. The Task Force discussed vacancies and reappointments in light of Town Meeting's approval of the extension of the Task Force. There was agreement that adding new members at this point to account for Member Mathew's resignation and Member Jim Bohn's pending move out-of-state would create unnecessary complications, including interference with continuity of work, and unrealistic expectations upon new members to simply approve whatever the current members wanted/had been working on. Possible option of having a Select Board Member and a Finance Committee member assigned was rejected as being an interference with a legislative committee. Member Cruise suggested as an alternative that the Select Board and Finance Committee could designate liaisons to the Task Force. In that respect, Chair Vieira noted that the Finance Committee had not yet met to discuss how it would work with the Task Force in the future.

Moderator Davis agreed to reappoint just the five remaining members. It was thereafter determined that the original motion creating the Task Force provided for seven members, meaning Moderator Davis could not reduce the size of the Task Force, even if he left spots unappointed. This will result in the remaining five members having to work to ensure a quorum of four at each meeting.

During this discussion, Moderator Davis was advised that many committees, boards and commissions lack posted minutes from a large number of meetings.

This discussion concluded with debate about the Mosquito articles reviewing the controversy with the Town Meeting and the Finance Committee. It was agreed that the articles were generally fair, though lacking in context about unproblematic prior use of Fall Town Meetings. It was also agreed that a letter to the editor was not warranted unless the Task Force intended to re-propose an article for an annual Fall Town Meeting, which was not the consensus at this point.

Minutes

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The minutes of the April 21, 2022 meeting were reviewed. Member Anagnostopoulos motioned to approve them as drafted, with Member Dalbec seconding the motion. There was no discussion of this motion, with the minutes were approved with the following vote:

Yes: Chair Vieira, and Members Anagnostopoulos, Cruise and Dalbec;

Abstain: Vice-Chair Moroney

Vote: 4-0-1

The minutes of the April 28, 2022 meeting were reviewed. Member Cruise motioned to approve them as drafted with the revision that the time that he returned to the meeting be added, with Member Anagnostopoulos seconding the motion. There was no discussion of this motion, with the minutes were approved with the following vote:

Yes: Chair Vieira, Vice-Chair Moroney, and Members Anagnostopoulos and Cruise;

Abstain: Member Dalbec

Vote: 4-0-1

Discussion of Recommendations and Lessoned Learned

There was discussion of various non-warrant article recommendations:

- Agreement to remove comments regarding early goal creation and meeting management;
- Need to ensure size of Task Force is commensurate with amount of work given and time given to undertake it;
- Need to account for potential lack of response from Town employees and boards;
- Ensure understanding of warrant creation process
- Future iterations of the Task Force needed access to funds and early guaranteed access to Town Counsel;
- Disagreement over whether the Task Force should be reconstituted every five years or every ten years; discussion over whether five year effectively would mean a permanent standing committee from a practical perspective; ultimately decided that, since it's only a recommendation, five years would suffice;
- There was disagreement over whether the recommendations should get into the details of the nominating and appointing process for the Task Force; ultimately, it was agreed to recommend that future iterations of the Task Force should only have five members, 2 appointed by the Select Board and 3 appointed by the Moderator
- there was disagreement over whether it should be recommended that the Task Force be somehow given the authority to place articles on the warrant;

There was agreement that the recommendations should be drafted to be shorter rather than longer.

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Conclusion

Member Dalbec made a motion to adjourn the meeting, with Member Anagnostopoulos seconding the motion. There was no discussion of this motion, which was voted as follows:

Yes: Chair Vieira, Vice-Chair Moroney, Members Anagnostopoulos, Cruise and Dalbec

Vote: 5-0

The meeting was adjourned at 10:55am.

Minutes approved: July 1, 2022

Drafted by Member Cruise