

100223 Charter Commission Workshop

Members Present: Claude Morgan, Neil Jamieson, David Lunt, John Eder, Kathleen Babeu, Dick Feeney

Others Present: Elizabeth Trice, Peter Crichton

Notes:

There's a new draft. Here are some of the issues:

Could people start running for office now for new district seats? How should we create that transition?

Can't add direct taxation through the charter- would require legislative action. Current language talks about direct taxation with that disclaimer.

If the county commissioners have specific language they want to suggest, the commission will consider it.

Dick brought a copy of a brochure from the 1982 charter process

Eder: Regarding contacting elected municipal officials. Initial conversations have raised hostility towards the county having any increased powers, thinks it would be better to talk to groups of voters- Chambers of Commerce, Rotary Clubs, Kiwanis, Lions, Fire Departments, etc.

Thinks time would be best spent in District 3 where previous votes have been lost.

Lunt: Thinks it's best to address any concerns sooner rather than later, and that since selectmen meetings are televised, they reach a lot of people.

Babeu: Agrees with both. Thinks it's important to speak in front of town councils and groups in District 3. People in Cumberland and Falmouth and Cape watch public access.

Morgan suggests that the group should start meeting in District 3.

Morgan: Gorden spoke at the republican caucus- about 60 people – and it was a warm and engaging reception. Morgan had a similar experience at the Waterfront Alliance.

Commitments:

EACH MEMBER IS EXPECTED TO ARRANGE SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS.
PRIORITISE EVENTS IN DISTRICT 3.

FAQS will be ready by the end of the weekend.

BROCHURES will be ready in three weeks

DRAFTS with cover letters will be ready next Monday.

ALL MEMBERS: attend press conference if possible and plan to follow up with letters to editor.

BURGESS: should speak to her caucus, and any business group affiliation.

GORDEN will pursue Republican groups.

JAMIESON will work to get on “Law on the Line” on Channel 4.

JAMIESON will contact College Democrats and other Democrat Groups

VILLA will finish FAQs and write a script of discussions that can be used for a 2-3 minute video. Multiple versions will be produced to target different audiences that can be distributed to public access channels.

VILLA will find a location for the next meeting, which will be in District 3.

LUNT will be doing a presentation to New Gloucester March 15th, and is working on a date for Gray.

BABEU will pursue the young politically active group

BABEU will contact Rotary and Lion’s Club.

EDER will create a brochure/card – will send text around and have layout at next meeting.

EDER will approach Green Party and League of Young Voters.

MORGAN will send recent draft with cover letter to TRICE.

MORGAN will set up press release

MORGAN will set up press conference.

TRICE will make 300 double-sided copies of draft with cover letter and bring to next meeting.

FEENEY will call PPH editorial board to set up meeting.