

**NG Candidate/Referendum Committee**  
**MINUTES**  
**September 9, 2020 at 1 pm via Zoom**

Present: Joanne Cole, Cindy Brakey, Anne Maurice, Penny Hilton, Debra Smith

- 1) Minutes of previous meeting will be approved via email when everyone has a chance to review them.
- 2) Anne was appointed notetaker of the day.
- 3) Update and preparations for legislative candidate forum:
  - Sharlene has locked-in September 29 for the event. She felt it was good to have a date before absentee ballots were available. All candidates are available as of now.
  - Joanne has followed-up with candidates with a game plan for the format. One candidate wanted to decrease the time to 45 minutes. After discussion, agreement reached at 55 mins.
  - House forum will begin at 6:30. Senate will start at approximately 7:25.
  - After a lengthy discussion of the timing for each section, Committee agreed to 30 mins for moderator questions, 15 minutes for community questions and 5 minutes for candidate wrap up. Moderator will do opening remarks and ground rules for the voters' voices segment. She will also make the closing remarks including election information and asking for feedback.
  - Joanne will email candidates with the outline for the Candidate Forum with the changes we agreed to.
  - Roles: 1. Penny – timekeeper (1 ding at 30 seconds, 2 dings at the end of the 2-minute time for answers) 2. Everyone looks for hands during the community voices section.

- Moderator Questions: Reviewed 2018 questions and decided on which ones to keep. Discussed other topics to add. Committee members took on topics to draft questions as follows:
  - Pandemic – Anne
  - State budget – Cindy
  - Healthcare – Debra
  - Style (cooperative/collaborative) and method of work – Penny

Questions to all by September 14. Anne will compile the questions and give a draft priority for all to review by September 18.

- 4) No change on our approach to the Charter referendum question. We will direct people to the videos of past events available on the town website.
- 5) Committee still has concerns about getting information on the New Gloucester website. It was decided that Joanne and Anne would meet with Town manager to discuss the issue.
- 6) Committee will publicize forum on NGX.
- 7) We decided to ask for \$300 for the next budget cycle.
- 8) Next meeting date will be on September 23, 1 pm via Zoom.

The New Gloucester Candidate/Referendum Issues Committee:

- Cindy Brakey, member
- Joanne Cole, chair
- Penny Hilton, member
- Anne Gauthier Maurice, vice-chair
- Debra Smith, member