

**NG Candidate/Referendum Committee**  
**MINUTES**  
**August 18, 2020 at 1 pm via Zoom**

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

- 1) Minutes of previous meeting were approved with correction to Committee title.
- 2) Penny was appointed notetaker of the day.
- 3) Joanne Cole was elected chair again, by acclamation, and Anne Maurice was elected Vice-chair.
- 4) Post-mortem about July 8, 2020 select board candidate forum:
  - Joanne reported she had received “gracious” thank you notes from both candidates, who offered no suggestions for changes, but expressed their appreciation for the event.
  - It was agreed that the event went well, except for a couple of small glitches when individual internet connections failed. It was “attended” by around 20 people. The video of the event, once posted online, had more than 180 views.
  - All agreed that the Zoom format worked well, and there was discussion of continuing with it, or maybe a live + Zoom hybrid, when Covid-19 restrictions no longer dictate events, though the issue of disenfranchising those who cannot use Zoom for various reasons was noted.
- 5) Look-ahead to fall – Election is Tuesday November 3, 2020:
  - Regarding a Forum for the state representative and state senate candidates:
    - it was decided to repeat the same format as last year, having one follow the other on the same evening, once again on Zoom, at an estimated total time of 2.5 hours., with questions submitted to participants ahead of time, as well as asked live by the audience.
    - Anne Maurice agreed to be moderator.

- A date early enough to educate those who will be mailing in ballots was preferred, and the date of Sept. 29 selected, assuming availability of Sharlene Myers of Town Office to help with the administration.
  - Joanne agreed to handle communications with town and candidates, and to find out how to get a timely notice put on the notice board at the Transfer Station.
- Regarding a Forum for the Charter question:
    - After discussion it was decided that the issue has not changed since the Forum on the matter put on by the committee last year, and the Q&A session put on then by the Board of Selectmen, so it would make sense to direct people to the videos of these events posted on the town website.
    - Joanne noted that the NGXchange also intends to do an in-depth article about what a Charter is, etc., and will also direct readers to these videos.

6) The committee adjourned with the “homework” to work on questions to submit to the candidates, and with Joanne to update Linda Chase, our BOS liaison.

7) Next meeting, by Zoom, set for September 9, at 1 PM

The New Gloucester Candidate/Referendum Issues Committee:

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