

November, 2013

To the citizens of East Montpelier, Vermont:

At Town Meeting 2013 the selectboard discussed the creation of a committee to investigate whether East Montpelier could benefit from having a charter and asked for volunteers. After further outreach through FrontPorchForum and other postings, the selectboard, on April 15, 2013 appointed eleven volunteers to serve on the East Montpelier Charter Committee. The committee was charged with researching specific areas of town government that might benefit from changes that could be accomplished through a charter. Additionally, the committee was free to follow other avenues of research and to consider new ideas.

On May 8, 2013 the Charter Committee brainstormed criteria to apply to each item to be considered for the charter, and the list changed very little over the next months. The committee realized that this list of criteria not only held each idea to the same standard, but also described the goals of the charter. The members feel strongly that the citizens of East Montpelier understand these guiding principles and goals:

- to help the selectboard more effectively exercise its ultimate responsibility for town affairs;
- to solve problems that the town currently has, has had in the past, or might have in the future;
- to be consistent with democratic control, particularly observing the principle of checks and balances;
- to avoid or minimize unintended consequences from the modification;
- to include changes that can be accomplished only through a charter; and
- to keep the charter simple.

We, the undersigned members of the charter committee, believe that our charter complies with the above conditions and hereby submit our recommendations to the selectboard and citizens of East Montpelier, Vermont. If approved by vote of the town, then the charter must be ratified by the state legislature.

Respectfully,

Richard Brock
Carl Etnier
Rick Mastelli
Julie Potter

Ed Deegan
Karen Gramer
Edie Miller
Kim Watson

Michael Duane
Norman Hill
Jack Pauly