

Special Committee on Voter Confidence Minutes (Working Session)

September 28, 2022 at 10:00 A.M.
State Archives, 9 Ratification Way, Concord NH

The Committee met at the State Archives building in Concord at 10 a.m., according to notice. All members were in attendance.

Committee member Andrew Georgevits moved to approve the draft minutes from the 9/6 and 9/20 meetings. Committee member Amanda Merrill seconded it. All voted in favor, none opposed.

Co-Chair Bradford Cook handed out a preliminary draft of the report and a compilation of findings and suggestions sent via email by Committee members. Co-chair Richard Swett thanked Committee member Ken Eyring for his detailed draft summary of testimony presented to the Committee.

Committee member Jim Splaine suggested keeping the report brief and including a statement of consensus rather than an executive summary. He brought up concerns that an overly detailed report could be referenced by different interest groups or others to support their claims by taking specific findings or statements out of context.

There was more discussion on the proposed length of the report. Several members highlighted the importance of providing specific examples in the report so those who have testified feel heard and acknowledged.

Committee member Amanda Merrill suggested clarifying in the report what funds would be used for certain proposed measures. She said frequent suggestions that have come up in public testimony like an increase in voter education and transparency, as well as audits, should be mentioned.

The Committee went through the intro, meeting schedule and executive summary of the draft report. Extra copies of the draft report documents were passed out to the four members of the public in attendance.

There was discussion on including public testimony in the report. The Committee proceeded to look over the draft compilation of Committee member findings and discussed whether they agreed with them or not. Some revisions were made while other points were tabled for further review and discussion.

The Committee discussed a concern received about publishing the final report before the November 8 election as Andrew Georgevits is running for State Representative in the city of Concord. The Committee agreed this was not a conflict and scheduled its next two meetings for

October 5, 9-12 p.m. and October 11, 9-1pm. Both meetings will take place at the State Archives building in Concord.

Co-chair Cook mentioned former Secretary of State Bill Gardner would like to address the Committee. He suggested Mr. Gardner do so at 12pm during the Oct 11 meeting.

There was discussion on who will work on which sections of the report and how suggestions will be sent to other Committee members.

Co-chair Cook discussed RSA 91-A (the Right to Know law) and how it pertains to discussions on the report and e-mails containing changes or discussion which are distributed to a majority of the members.

It was agreed that suggestions for additions or changes to the report be sent to the Co-Chairs in the first instance, and not to the entire committee.

Committee member Zink moved to adjourn the meeting, Committee member Georgevits seconded it, all in favor, none opposed.

Meeting adjourned at 12:55 pm.