

Ogunquit Charter Review Commission: Member Views on Preamble  
Discussion Document

*Note: this document sets out the contributions of individual Charter Review Commission Members and does not attempt to synthesise them.*

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PREAMBLE

We, the citizens of the Town of Ogunquit, realizing our responsibilities inherent in the adoption of this Charter, also recognize that strict moral ethics must be practiced by all people, particularly those in positions of authority. These moral obligations require honesty, integrity, and high ethical standards on the part of all elected and appointed officials.

Honest, responsible, dedicated, and transparent leadership in all phases of our community is essential if Ogunquit is to continue to be a better place in which to live.

The Ogunquit Village Corporation was formed in 1913 as a result of the efforts of ~~our forebears. The works of many went into the original Charter; specifically mentioned are Nehemiah P. M. Jacobs, Wilbur F. Cousins, George H. Littlefield, J. Moses Perkins, Edward T. Weare, Samuel J. Perkins and F. Raymond Brewster.~~ **those who went before us.** The citizens of Ogunquit appreciate what the charterers and other dedicated people have done through the years to establish, preserve and improve the Town.

The Charter, **first** approved by the legislature of the State of Maine in 1913, has been amended several times ~~since the corporation was born. Times have changed; Ogunquit has changed and grown~~ **numerous times.** On July 1, 1980, Ogunquit officially became a town in the State of Maine pursuant to L.D. 959 as enacted by the State Legislature in June, 1979.

**In 2020, the Charter Review Commission has been formed to review, clarify, and where possible, simplify the Town Charter.**

The purpose of this Charter is to clarify the rights and responsibilities of the Town of Ogunquit; to add other rights and responsibilities as required by present needs and by changes in State Statutes; and to assemble all this into a readable, acceptable format. **This Charter represents the form of government that we the citizens of Ogunquit choose to have.** This Charter may be amended in the future, as cause or need requires.

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PREAMBLE

We, the citizens of Ogunquit, realizing our responsibilities inherent in the adoption of this Charter, recognize that the Town must govern using the highest legal, ethical, and moral standards.

The Ogunquit Village Corporation was formed in 1913; later that year the first charter was approved by the Maine State Legislature. On July 1, 1980 Ogunquit officially became a town in the State of Maine

pursuant to L.D. 959 as enacted by the State Legislature. Since then the Charter has been amended several times either to incorporate changes in State laws or to address new situations in Ogunquit. All amendments must first be approved by the Town Attorney and later be passed by a majority of registered voters at the next Town Meeting.

The purpose of the Charter is to clarify the rights and responsibilities of the citizens of Ogunquit and to outline the operation of the Town Government. It is essentially a condensed version of the most commonly cited State Statutes assembled in an easy to use format. Additionally, it provides rules and regulations specifically developed for the Town of Ogunquit and its unique requirements.

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## PREAMBLE

The Ogunquit Village Corporation was formed in 1913 as the result of the efforts of our forebears. Many worked on the original charter. Those specifically mentioned were: Nehemiah P.M. Jacobs, Wilbur F. Cousins, George H. Littlefield, J. Moses Perkins, Edward T. We are, Samuel J. Perkins and F. Raymond Brewster.

The Charter, approved by the legislature of the State of Maine in 1913, has been amended several times since the corporation was born. Times have changed and Ogunquit has grown. On July 1, 1980, Ogunquit officially became a town in the State of Maine pursuant to L.D. 959 as enacted by the State Legislature in June, 1979.

The purpose of this Charter is to: clarify the rights and responsibilities of the Town of Ogunquit; and, add rights and responsibilities as required by present needs and changes in Maine state law and statutes.

We the citizens of the Town of Ogunquit are aware of (realize) our rights and responsibilities in the adoption of this Charter. We recognize that ethics Ought to be (must be) practiced by all people, particularly those in positions of authority.

Honesty, integrity, fairness and respect are imperative (essential) for the life of individuals and the life of our community. Elected and appointed officials are to be held to these high standards if our town is to thrive in this place we call home.

This Charter is assembled in a readable format and may be amended in the future, as cause or need requires.

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## PREAMBLE

Ogunquit, the Abenaki's word for "*a beautiful place by the sea,*" became a Village Corporation within the Town of Wells in 1913 when the State of Maine's legislature approved its first *Legislative Charter*. On 1 July 1980 Ogunquit separated from Wells to become an independent Town, pursuant to L.D. 959 as enacted by the State Legislature in June 1979.

The State of Maine's Statute (Title 30-A, Number 2103) sets forth the Charter Review Commission's Membership and Procedures. The Town's Charter must be reviewed every five years, providing voters with the opportunity to approve amendments and revisions to meet the changing needs of this community.

Ogunquit's Charter describes in detail the authority, responsibility and procedures of the Town's Government. The Nine Articles cover the Powers granted to the Town, Town Meetings, Select Board, Town Manager, Financial Procedures, School Committee, Tax Administration, Boards / Committees / Commissions, and General Provisions. The Charter may not supersede Federal or State Laws. Instead, the Charter provides greater detail on how the Town wishes to govern itself.

All residents, property owners and particularly individuals involved with the Town's Government are encouraged to become familiar with this Charter. Recognizing the authority of Ogunquit's voters, all elected and appointed individuals, and anyone dealing with the Town must abide by this Charter, and the Town's Code of Ethics requiring honesty, integrity and transparency.

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## **PREAMBLE**

We, the citizens of the Town of Ogunquit, realizing our responsibilities inherent in the adoption of this Charter, also recognize that strict moral ethics must be practiced by all people, particularly those in positions of authority. These moral obligations require honesty, integrity, and high ethical standards on the part of all elected and appointed officials.

Honest, responsible, dedicated, and transparent leadership in all phases of our community is essential if Ogunquit is to continue to be a better place in which to live.

The Charter, approved by the legislature of the State of Maine in 1913, has been amended several times since the corporation was born. Times have changed; Ogunquit has changed and grown. On July 1, 1980, Ogunquit officially became a town in the State of Maine pursuant to L.D. 959 as enacted by the State Legislature in June, 1979.

The purpose of this Charter is to clarify the rights and responsibilities of the Town of Ogunquit; to add other rights and responsibilities as required by present needs and by changes in State Statutes; and to assemble all this into a readable, acceptable format. This Charter may be amended in the future, as cause or need requires.

*Note: make writing the Preamble the last step.*

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In general, believe the current preamble should be re-ordered and language/content be streamlined:

1. Historical background of the formation of the village and the town (Drawing from Par 3 and 5)
2. Overview of the establishment, structure and purpose of the Charter (Drawing from Par 5 and 6)
3. Requirements, process and reason for regular review and updating (Referencing state law)
4. Rights and responsibilities of community leadership and of the citizenry (Drawing from Par 1 and 2)

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#### PREAMBLE

The Ogunquit Town Charter embodies the aspirations and responsibilities specific to our chosen form of government as we citizens of the Town look to the next decade and beyond. It respects the requirements of Maine State law while at the same time addressing those aspects of our municipal structure which require greater clarity than provided by the State, or which are unique to our “beautiful place by the sea”.

This Charter assumes that our elected and appointed officials meet the highest standards of honest and ethical behaviour. It promotes transparency in government, to enable the citizens of the Town of Ogunquit to participate fully in our local democracy and to facilitate all local stakeholders contributing to the fair and effective government of our Town.

This document brings together in a single clear and readable format the rights and responsibilities of the Town of Ogunquit. It provides a working platform which may be altered by future amendments when appropriate, subject always to the approval of the voters of our Town.

*Note: is it within the scope of the Review Commission to consider how the Charter may be made available in suitable formats for partially sighted / blind people?*