

Comments to the Charter Revision Commission

Respectfully submitted by Christopher Davey, 21 Mount Sumner Dr., Bolton, CT 06043

1. Incorporate gender-neutral pronouns and language, including renaming First Selectman to First Selectperson.
2. Currently, Temporary Public Building Commissions expire after 18 months. Given the recent issues with the closeout of the HS addition, perhaps the TPBC should stay active until the completion of the project, however that might be defined.
3. Consider doing away with BOF and folding its responsibilities into an enlarged, 7- or 9-member BOS.
4. Require BOE, BOF, and BOS to record (audio or video) meetings for broadcast and preservation online.
5. Require town to make public meeting documents (including agendas, board packets, monthly budget reports, etc.) available online and in formats that are organized and searchable.
6. Consider allowing noncitizen permanent residents to vote in municipal elections and budget referendums, serve on appointed boards and commissions, and run for local elected office (to the extent allowed by federal and state law).
7. Examine the budget adoption process. Either restrict the BOF's ability to reduce proposed budgets or give townspeople the option when voting on the budget to indicate whether a no vote is a vote in favor of increasing or decreasing the proposed budget.
8. Adjust CAPA language ("any specific item of equipment") to allow for CAPA funds to be used on computers and other technology equipment that tends to be bought in multiples
9. Require CAPA expenditures to be in proportion to the BOE's and town's overall shares of the budget (perhaps with a provision to allow deviation from those proportions with the unanimous vote of the CAPA committee).
10. What is the rationale for bar on PZC members holding salaried town office (Sec. 10.2)? Consider limiting the restriction to offices with the town proper or even to the land use and planning departments.
11. Does sec. 11.1 accord with state law for BOE officer elections? Charter says "each year," but CT state statute (Ch. 170, Sec. 10-218) calls for BOE elections only after new members are elected, which is every other year in Bolton.
12. I would like to hear discussion of whether it would be to Bolton's advantage to shift to a town manager style of government
13. Charter doesn't address how the town clerk is chosen (whether appointed or elected). Should it?