

**BOLTON CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION**  
**Regular Meeting**  
**Thursday, March 4, 2021**  
**Via teleconference**  
**7:00 P.M.**

Phone: 1-929-205-6099

Meeting ID: 858 3535 4259

The March 4, 2021 meeting of the Charter Revision Commission was called to order at 7:05 PM.

**1. ROLL CALL**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chair Gwen Marrion, Vice Chair Eleanor Georges, Adam Teller, Richard Hayes, Jay Brudz, Jim Aldrich, and John Toomey.

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

OTHERS PRESENT: Board Clerk Michael Stankov

**2. PUBLIC COMMENT**

G. Marrion called for public comment, but there was none.

**3. ACT ON MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 18, 2021 REGULAR MEETING**

MOTION MADE by J. Brudz, seconded E. Georges, to adopt the February 18 regular meeting minutes.

DISCUSSION: J. Toomey noted that Skylar Fraser was a reporter for the General Inquirer, not the community voice channel. E. Georges noted that the word “rainy” was misspelled on page 5, paragraph 1 and had an extra letter “d”.

G. Marrion noted that in the second motion on page 3 the words “elected by the BoS” should read “appointed by the BoS”. G. Marrion also noted that she recalled R. Hayes as voting against the motion made by A. Teller on page 4, but R. Hayes could not recall how he voted on the issue and the commission elected to leave this section of the minutes as they were.

VOTING IN FAVOR: G. Marrion, J. Brudz, J. Aldrich, A. Teller, J. Toomey, and E. Georges.

VOTING AGAINST: R. Hayes

ABSTENTIONS: None

**4. DISCUSS STEPS IN CHARTER REVISION PROCESS**

G. Marrion noted that the Board of Selectmen has set a date for a public hearing to discuss the proposed charter revisions for Tuesday, March 23, after which the BoS would have two weeks to make recommendations to the CRC, with the final day of the recommendation period being April 6. Upon receiving these receiving these recommendations, the CRC has 30 days to debate the recommendations of the BoS, accept or reject them, and submit their final report by May 7.

#### 5. REPORT ON BOARD OF SELECTMAN DISCUSSION AT MARCH 2, 2021 MEETING

E. Georges spoke about the topics of the Charter that were discussed at the most recent BoS meeting. The BoS first discussed the CRC's suggested changes to the conflicts of interest clause in the charter and noted with some concern that Joshua Kelly, the current Administrative Officer in Bolton, also holds several other town roles that would conflict with the suggested changes. The BoS also discussed the suggested changes to the Board of Finance at length, with individuals arguing both for and against the suggested changes.

#### 6. DISCUSS PROCESS OF DRAFTING PROPOSED CHARTER LANGUAGE

The commission resolved that G. Marrion, J. Brudz, and A. Teller were form an ad hoc work group to begin drafting the final language for the charter revision, dividing up the work between them and submitting documents to the general body of the commission for editing and revising as they completed each section.

MOTION MADE by J. Aldrich, seconded by J. Brudz, to set special meetings on April 15<sup>th</sup> and April 20<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm to finish discussion of the charter revision and the comments of the BoS, contingent on the need to do so.

VOTING IN FAVOR: G. Marrion, J. Brudz, J. Aldrich, A. Teller, J. Toomey, R. Hayes and E. Georges.

VOTING AGAINST: None

ABSTENTIONS: None

#### 7. DISCUSS HOW QUESTIONS SHOULD APPEAR ON BALLOT

The commission spent some time discussing their preferences concerning how many questions would appear on the ballot and which of the many complex issues that have been discussed over the past several months would require their own questions. Concerns were voiced over having both too few or too many questions, with G. Marrion noting that previous charter revision processes in other Connecticut towns have culminated in as few as three questions and as many as eighteen, implying no single best formula for number of questions. The board noted that topics that might receive their own question included: Changes to the term and size of the BoS, changes to the structure of the Board of Finance/Finance Committee, the combination of the Inland Wetland Commission and the Planning and Zoning Board, whether budgets will be able to be "revised" or simply "reduced" after failing at ballot, and whether all language in the charter would be made gender neutral. The commission resolved to finalize the list of questions after receiving the input of the BoS in April.

G. Marrion adjourned the meeting at 7:54 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael Stankov". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "M" and a stylized "S".

Michael Stankov, Charter Revision Commission Board Clerk

*Please see future minutes for revisions and corrections to these minutes.*