

CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION
Regular Meeting
Thursday, January 21, 2021 7:00 P.M.
Via teleconference
AGENDA

Phone: 1-929-205-6099
Meeting ID: 851 7078 6707

The January 21, 2021 meeting of the Charter Revision Commission was called to order at 7:02 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,

3. ACT ON MINUTES OF JANUARY 14, 2021 REGULAR MEETING

MOTION MADE by A. Teller, seconded by A. Teller, to ratify the minutes of the January 14, 2021 regular meeting.

DISCUSSION: G. Marrion pointed out several small spelling errors or extraneous words, which were removed.

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

VOTING AGAINST: R. Hayes

ABSTENTIONS: None

4. REVIEW DRAFT REPORT TO THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN

The commission once again began to review the revised draft report that they had commented on at the 1/14 meeting, revising language and clarifying comments to the BoS as they went. J. Brudz raised the question about whether or not specific language should be proposed to the Board of Selectmen (BoS) with the report or not. A. Teller noted that submitting the exact language to the BoS in the first draft might lead to the BoS getting bogged down in the wording as opposed to focusing on the ideas being proposed, but that it would likely be a good idea to indicate that the CRC has been drafting certain sections of the charter already and would be

ready to revise the language based upon selectmen recommendations. J. Brudz and G. Marrion agreed with this viewpoint.

On the topic of gender neutrality of the charter, the commission determined to exclude the word “selectman” from the gender neutrality revisions because of the historical nature of the word.

On the topic of ties in municipal elections, the commission spent some time reviewing the CT State Statutes pertaining to how ties can be broken for the position of First Selectman to clarify whether the coin toss can be used as a substitution for a special election for this position. It was eventually determined that this was not a valid substitution, and that ties for the position of First Selectman would still be broken by a Special Election.

On the topic of the Board of Finance, the commission noted that the recommended changes that would convert the BoF into the newly envisioned Finance Commission would only go into effect if the Board of Selectmen was also increased in size to 7 members.

5. REVIEW TOWN CHARTER PROVISIONS IF NECESSARY

No further provisions of the Town Charter were reviewed.

6. SET PUBLIC HEARING DATE

MOTION MADE by J. Brudz, seconded by A. Teller, to set the Public Hearing for the regular meeting of the CRC on the 4th of February 2021, with the public hearing scheduled to begin at 7:15.

DISCUSSION: It was noted that the public hearing would have to be conducted over zoom, and that the commissioners would take steps to ensure a smooth meeting.

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

VOTING AGAINST: None

ABSTENTIONS: None

7. OTHER BUSINESS

Thinking ahead to the format of the questions that would appear on the November ballot, the commission discussed how best to organize the suggested alterations to the charter into questions. In particular, the commission discussed whether or not the restructuring of the BoF into the FC should be separate from the issue of increasing the size of the BoS from 5 members to 7, whether certain changes such as the combination of the Inland Wetlands Commission and Planning and Zoning deserved their own questions, and how many questions there could be. The commission resolved to finalize the exact format of the questions after receiving feedback from the public hearing and the BoS.

The commission concluding the meeting by spending a significant amount of time discussing how to properly structure the upcoming public hearing, conversing about anticipated problems

and strategies previously employed in public hearings in Bolton and other towns in order to make the remote public hearing far less problematic than it otherwise could be.

G. Marrion adjourned the meeting at 9:18

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael Stankov". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Michael Stankov, Charter Revision Commission Board Clerk

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