

CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION 2020
MINUTES
JULY 15, 2020

A meeting of the Charter Revision Commission 2020 was held on Wednesday, July 15, 2020 remotely via Zoom teleconference. The meeting was called to order at 6:32 p.m.

Members Present: In attendance were Commissioners Kate Donahue, Tom Tesoro, Susan Gilson, Nancy Gardiner, J.C. Cinelli, and Martin McCann. In addition to the Commission members were Town Attorney Dan Schopick and Chief Administrative Officer and Commission Clerk Cindy Katske.

Prior Minutes: Moved by Tom Tesoro, seconded by J.C. Cinelli to approve the minutes of the June 17, 2020 meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

Public Comment: Attorney Tom Lee, Chair of the Ethics Commission, addressed the Commission regarding changes he would like to see made. He agreed to provide the comments he made at last week's Town Council meeting in writing for the Commission.

Review of Town Council recommendations:

1. Chapter II, Section 2, regarding the number of voting districts. The Commission reviewed language drafted by Martin McCann. Moved by Martin McCann, seconded by Tom Tesoro to approve the following language to replace the first sentence of Chapter II, Section 2: "At the Town election, the members of the Council shall be elected from and by voting districts of the Town for terms of two (2) years. The number of voting districts in the Town shall be established from time to time upon the affirmative vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the members of the Council present at a meeting duly warned for such purpose. Voting districts so established shall consist of substantially equal population. The boundaries of voting districts in the Town shall be set from time to time by a majority vote of the Council." The motion carried unanimously.
2. Chapter II, Section 5A, plus eight other instances regarding posting notices on the town website rather than publishing in the newspaper. The Commission discussed changing these instances back to present language and add posting on the website. Moved by Nancy Gardiner, seconded by Susan Gilson to amend the language in Chapter II, Section 5A and in eight other instances in the Charter to revert to present language requiring publication of notice and add posting on the website. The motion carried unanimously.
3. Chapter II, Section 5B, regarding time for posting meeting agendas and supplemental materials. The Town Council asked the Commission to go back to 48 hours for posting of meeting notices and supplemental materials. Moved by J.C. Cinelli, seconded by Tom Tesoro to

change the posting time in Chapter II, Section 5B back to 48 hours. The motion carried unanimously.

4. Chapter II, Section 6, regarding posting notice of adoption of legislation on the town website. Moved by J.C. Cinelli, seconded by Nancy Gardiner, to replace the last sentence of Chapter II, Section 6 with the following: "Unless such legislative action shall be designated emergency legislation as provided herein, or shall specify a later effective date, it shall become effective on the fifteenth (15th) day following newspaper publication, except with reference to the annual budget which shall become effective as hereinafter provided. The fifteen (15) day period shall not apply to Boards, Commissions and Committees. Such appointments shall become effective immediately upon posting notice of the appointment in the Legal Notices section of the town website." The motion carried unanimously.

5. Chapter III, Section 3A & B, regarding absence, disability, vacancy, etc. of the First Selectman. The question arose as to what happens if the Treasurer becomes the First Selectman, and whether that would cause another special election. No change is needed, but the reasoning should be updated to say that vacancies in the Treasurer position are covered in Chapter VIII, Section 5.

6. Chapter VII, Section 1A, regarding Board of Finance alternate members. The commissioners discussed the issue and some proposed language. Moved by J.C. Cinelli, seconded by Martin McCann to remove the Commission's recommendation and go back to existing language in Chapter VII, Section 1A of the Charter. The motion carried unanimously.

7. Chapter VII, Section 17, regarding the Ethics Commission. The Commission discussed the issues and decided to hold this until the next meeting so the input from Attorney Tom Lee can be more fully considered.

8. Chapter VIII, Section 9, regarding referendum for certain bonded debt. The Town Council recommended this as a separate ballot question. The issues are adjusting the amount for inflation and a process for holding the referendum. Moved by J.C. Cinelli, seconded by Tom Tesoro to recommend the CPI language only as a separate ballot question. The motion carried unanimously.

Reasoning in the Commission's Report:

The Commission discussed reviewing the reasoning in the report to see if any revisions are necessary to make the report clearer to readers. Topics assigned to commissioners to prepare for the next meeting include calendar days, Town Council election, publication/posting of notices, effective date of appointments, vacancy, etc. of First Selectman, and referendum for bonded debt.

Timeline:

The Commission discussed next steps and timeline. The Commission will meet Monday, July 20, 2020 and then will meet with L&A on Wednesday, July 22, 2020 to confer regarding the Town Council's recommendations. An updated report will be ready by the end of the day on Friday.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:59 p.m. by unanimous consent.

Respectfully submitted,

Cindy Katske, Clerk