

**APPROVED/AMENDED MINUTES**  
**Public Hearing**  
**Charter Revision Commission**  
**Brookfield Town Hall – Meeting Room 133**  
**Thursday, March 2, 2017**  
**7:00 PM**

Chair Park began the public hearing at 7:02 PM.

**Present:** Chair Park; Vice Chair Friedrich; Commissioner Jaffe; Commissioner Hand; Commissioner Dori; Commissioner Donovan; Commissioner Ferry

**Also Present:** First Selectman Steve Dunn; Selectman Sue Slater; Treasurer John Lucas; Town Attorney Tom Beecher; Video Recording Secretary Nina Mack; Meeting Recording Secretary Emily Cole Prescott

**Welcome:** Chair Park introduced members of the Commission. Chair Park explained the purpose of the hearing, and noted guidelines for public comment. Documents distributed at this meeting may be found online by visiting this link:

[http://www.brookfieldct.gov/Pages/BrookfieldCT\\_BComm/Charter/index](http://www.brookfieldct.gov/Pages/BrookfieldCT_BComm/Charter/index)

The following public hearing notice was published in *The Penny Saver*:

The legal voters and residents of the Town of Brookfield are hereby notified that the Charter Revision Commission will conduct a Public Hearing at the Brookfield Town Hall, Meeting Room 133, on **Thursday, March 2, 2017, at 7:00 p.m.**, for the purpose of receiving public comment and opinion concerning proposed changes and revisions to the Town Charter.

Copies of the Charter Revision Commission Draft Report are on file and available for public inspection in the office of the Town Clerk and on the Town's website [www.brookfieldct.gov](http://www.brookfieldct.gov).

Dated at Brookfield, CT, this 14<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2017.

Joni Park, Chairman  
Brookfield Charter Review Commission

**Pledge of Allegiance:** The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**Presentation of Charges/Recommendations:** Chair Park reviewed the presentation, of which copies were distributed to the public. Chair Park explained that the purpose of this hearing is to gather public feedback about the charges and recommendations presented by the Charter Revision Commission.

**Public Comment:** Chair Park asked for public comment about the presentation. The following residents addressed the Commission:

- *Eve Sturdevant of 3 Rajcula Farm Road* spoke against public request #1 and spoke against increasing the size of the board of selectmen from three to five members, citing the size of

the small town. She requested clarification of public request #9. She lastly noted that these three charges had been voted on and not passed in previous years. Commissioner Ferry clarified that the Commission's recommendation about public request #9 is to allow restoration of line items up to the amount proposed by the Board of Selectmen to the Board of Finance. Commissioner Jaffe commented that these items had been brought before the Commission, and had been discussed. About the recommendation to increase the size of the Board of Selectmen, he stated that the State of Connecticut recommends a larger Board of Selectmen, but the Town is not required to comply because the Town's Charter currently calls for a three-member Board of Selectmen.

- *Mike Zacchea of 57 Merwin Brook Road* stated that he endorses the recommendations of the Commission, as he feels they will increase transparency and operations of the town.
- *Carmine Rositano of 6 Big Buck Lane* stated that he is concerned with efficiency, ease for residents, and cost reduction. He stated that he would like to see the referendum for capital projects done in conjunction with the annual budget referendum, as referendum hours make it quite difficult for residents to vote in additional referendums for capital projects, where voter turnout is not as high. About the five-member board of selectmen recommendation, Mr. Rositano indicated that the town is growing and additional input is positive. Commissioner Hand thanked Mr. Rositano for his comments. Commissioner Hand noted that the Commission had spent much time discussing capital projects referendums, and one of the reasons to not recommend a change is the need to carefully consider these capital expenses. Commissioner Dori also commented that anytime there is a referendum, voters may vote by special ballot at the Town Clerk's Office in advance of the referendum date, if the voter cannot be present at the voting location.
- *Matt Grimes of 11 Orchard Street* stated that the five-member board of selectmen recommendation should not be considered, as it has not passed previous charter revision commission ballots. He also noted that the Board of Finance and Board of Selectmen do not have authority of the individual line items of the Board of Education's proposed budget. He noted that three of these charges had been previously recommended and turned down, during a presidential election year in 2012 when voter turnout was higher than would be projected in 2017. Commissioner Dori noted that a number of people have been added to the voter list since 2012, and the Commission is concerned with recommending specifically clear language for the ballot questions.
- *Betsy McIlvaine of 127 Long Meadow Hill Road* spoke in favor of Board of Selectmen charge #9. She explained the purpose of this request. On the Library Board, alternates currently serve as Sub-Committee Chairs, and this expansion request would allow for greater leadership opportunity. She also thanked the Commission and the public for their recommendations and work on these charges.

Chair Park asked if there was anyone else present who had not signed up but would like to speak.

The following residents addressed the Commission:

- *First Selectman Steve Dunn of 24 Lyndenwood Drive* thanked the Commission for the ongoing work.
- *George Walker of 24 Lillinonah Drive* thanked the Commission for their work. He noted that several of these recommendations have already been suggested by previous Charter Revision Commissions, and had been turned down by the public. He also suggested having Charter

Revisions proposed during election years. He spoke against public request #1. Mr. Walker also did not recommend the consideration to increase the size of the Board of Selectmen, citing similarly-sized towns in the area with three-member boards. Lastly, he spoke against the option to restore budget line items at the town meeting, indicating that elected officials represent the community. Chair Park responded that the Town is ready for a five-member board, as the Selectmen have many responsibilities in this growing town.

- *Colin Milligan of 256A Whisconier Road* asked questions of clarification about the current Town Charter. The Commission answered Mr. Milligan's questions, about process relative to the Town Charter. He replied to a previous public comment statement that not everyone who attends an election-year vote may be as informed as those voting in a municipal vote.

Commissioner Hand thanked residents for giving their time to volunteer, and thanked Atty. Beecher and Recording Secretary Prescott for their work. Commissioner Ferry indicated that the purpose of this meeting is to gather public comment about the Commission's recommendations. Commissioner Ferry noted his review of selectmen's attendance at meetings as ex-officio members, indicating the high number of board meetings for each of the three selectmen to attend. Commissioner Donovan stated that the Commission is looking for the ability to increase the number of people on the Board of Selectmen and Library Board to increase leadership within the Town. Vice Chair Friedrich explained the purpose of charge #8.

Chair Park asked for further comment, and the following residents addressed the Commission:

- *Carmine Rositano* stated, about charge #8, that he would like to see proactive measures to manage budget transfers before the last quarter of the year without going over the town's budget. Commissioner Jaffe explained the purpose of this charge in more detail. Commissioner Jaffe stated that a redlined document will be available online, indicating all proposed revisions.
- *Matt Grimes of 11 Orchard Street* asked for clarification on the next steps of the process, and Chair Park replied in detail.
- *Selectman Sue Slater of 12 White Pine Drive* noted that the Commission has considered charges brought before it.

Chair Park thanked those who had attended this meeting. She asked for audience members to complete the survey document, which is also available online. The deadline for submission is March 16<sup>th</sup>.

The following residents addressed the Commission, for purposes of clarification:

- *Tulio Lopez of Pond View Drive* asked when the Charter Revision Commission's process will be complete. Chair Park replied in detail, noting the possible next steps of the process.
- *Carmine Rositano of 6 Big Buck Lane* asked a question of clarification about the survey, which Commissioner Jaffe answered.

**Adjournment: At 8:12 PM, Commissioner Donovan made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Chair Park seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.**