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CHARTER REVIEW COMMISSION

Colchester, Connecticut

Town Hall Room 1

October 8, 2014

Meeting Minutes

Members present: Gregg LePage, Ursulla Tschinkel, Gary Siddell, Monica Egan and Betty Wagner.

Also attending: Liaison Selectman Bill Curran, First Selectman Stan Soby, Charles Csere

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chairman Gregg LePage. There were no changes made to the agenda.

Minutes of the September 8 meeting:

Motion to approve by Mr. Siddell, Second by Ms. Egan. Vote: unanimous approval.

Citizen comments:

Mr. Curran brought up two points: First that the current charter requires department heads to come to the Board of Selectmen to sign off on any contracts higher than \$5000.00. He questioned if this practice should continue at this level. Second, should a town meeting be required for small changes in the charter when they involve advisory boards?

Charge to the Charter Review Commission:

Mr. LePage reviewed the charge with the group.

Overview of prior Charter Review and Charter Revision Commission work:

Mr. LePage reviewed what was presented by the last commission, including what was approved and what was recommended but not approved. The prior group worked six months on the review and 18 months on the revision. It was submitted for a vote at the 2006 general election. The plan at the time was to have it on the state election ballot where more people are inclined to vote and then whatever was approved would become effective before the next municipal election.

There was discussion of the prior commission's efforts to change the form of government to a Town Manager/Board of Selectman with an unpaid First Selectman. The commission agreed to look at this at a later date. There was also discussion of whether the charter is the appropriate place to address a five or ten year plan for the town to go forward.

The commission agreed to send copies of the town charter to the department heads and town boards to review for relevancy. First Selectman Soby will handle this after Chairman LePage prepares the introduction.

Charter Review:

The preface was discussed first and the group questioned if it was needed, along with the other introductory definitions. First Selectman Soby will investigate whether this was placed at the beginning of the charter to be in compliance with state statutes.

ARTICLE ONE:

C – 101.

Definitions. It was agreed that the requirement to be an elector of the town be added to the sections titled: Appointed Board, Elected Official and Elected Board.

The commission agreed to recommend adding a section entitled Public Hearing and defining what a public hearing is so there is no confusion between hearings, which are informational and town meetings where action is taken.

C – 102 – no changes recommended.

C – 103 – no changes recommended.

C – 104 – no changes recommended.

ARTICLE TWO:


C – 201. Elected officials. The commission will recommend that the Registrars of Voters be added to the list of elected officials. Elected officials' status and terms will be discussed at a later meeting.

C – 202. Elected boards. There was discussion of the term lengths and number of members on the board of education and the board of finance. The commission will discuss further at a later meeting.

C – 203. No changes are recommended at this time.

Adjournment: Motion to adjourn by Betty Wagner. Seconded by Ms. Egan. Vote: unanimous approval. The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m. The next meeting will be on October 22, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. in Room One.

Respectfully submitted,


Betty Wagner, Secretary