

**CHARTER REVIEW COMISSION**  
**Colchester, Connecticut**  
**Town Hall Meeting Room One**  
**June 24, 2025**  
Meeting Minutes

Members attending: Gregg LePage, Gary Siddell, Ursula Tschinkel, Monica Egan and Betty Wagner  
Guest: Selectman John Reeve

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:08 p.m. by Chairman Gregg LePage.
2. **Additions to the Agenda:** Motion by Mr. Siddell, Second by Ms. Tschinkel to discuss an email sent to the commission by Rob Tarlov. Vote: Unanimous approval. The email will be discussed as item 6.1.
3. **Approval of the minutes of the June 10, 2015 meeting:** Motion to accept as presented by Mr. Siddell, second by Ms. Tschinkel. Vote: Unanimous approval.
4. **Citizen comments:** None.
5. **Updates:** Mr. LePage announced that he has scheduled two meetings in July.
6. **Continue review of ordinances:** Ms. Egan began the discussion:
  - Chapter 57. Fire Hydrants. The commission is not recommending any changes at this time.
  - Chapter 72. Health Department Permits and Fees. This ordinance is no longer relevant because this service is now provided by Chatham Health District.
  - Chapter 90. Officers and Employees. The commission will recommend that this chapter be retired.
  - Chapter 92. Open Space Preservation. The commission is not recommending any changes at this time.
  - Chapter 93. Ordinance Enforcement. The commission will recommend that the Charter Revision Commission seek a legal opinion on this chapter.
  - Chapter 98. Peddling and Soliciting. The commission looked at this chapter a second time and is not recommending any changes at this time.

Ms. Wagner continued the discussion.

  - Chapter 58. Fire Lanes. The commission is not recommending any changes at this time.
  - Chapter 64. Flood Hazard Areas. The commission is not recommending any changes at this time.
  - Chapter 72. Health Department. This ordinance is no longer relevant as the work is covered by the Chatham Health District.

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Mr. LePage continued the discussion.

Chapter 18 Boards and Commissions.

Article 8. Police Commission. The commission is not recommending changes at this time.

Article 9. Regional Council of Governments. This article is no longer in effect.

Article 10. Sewer and Water Commission. The commission has already discussed this article with Mr. Coyle of that commission.

Article 11. Aquifer Protection Agency. The commission is taking not recommending action on this article at this time.

Article 12. Retirement Board. The commission is not recommending changes at this time.

Article 13 Open Space Advisory Commission. The commission is not recommending changes at this time.

Article 14. Agriculture Commission. The commission is not recommending changes at this time.

Ms. Wagner continued with information gathered from department managers.

Chapter 120. Solid Waster. The commission will recommend that the sentence that discusses a contract with the city of Norwich be deleted because that contract is no longer in place.

Chapter 109-2. The definition of working days is correct as it is currently worded.

Chapter 120-9. This section is no longer relevant as it is handled by the state.

**6.1. Discussion of email from Mr. Tarlov.** The commission discussed the email. It is unclear if this is an issue for the Charter Review. The commission thanks Mr. Tarlov for bringing this matter to its attention. The letter is attached to the minutes.

**7. Citizen comments.** None.

**8. Adjournment.** Motion to adjourn by Ms. Egan. Second by Ms Tschinkel. The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Betty Wagner, Secretary

**Subject:** Charter Review Agenda  
**From:** LePage, Gregg G (GLEPAGE@travelers.com)  
**To:** siddellg66@comcast.net; monicacegan@gmail.com; wfwagner01@snet.net; ursula.tschinkel@ct.gov;  
**Cc:** ssoby@colchesterct.gov; JReever@rjsassociates.com;  
**Date:** Wednesday, June 24, 2015 9:58 AM

Here is the agenda for tonight.

I also received these additional comments from Rob Tarlov that I thought we could discuss:

Hi Gregg,

I know you are well into your review, if not already done, but something I forgot to bring up when we met. Not even sure it is a Charter issue.

I have suggested this a Board of Finance meetings in the past, when we reviewed budgets with BOE. Not something that everyone jumped up and supported, at least on the Town side, but when I did last proposed it (March 2014), some said, "Oh you would need Charter Revision".

Maybe statues would not permit either.

Before this year, BOE could not allocate any funds for capital beyond the current year. A change this year, now allows, but with a limit.

Also, there is a conflict for BOE members between spending money on capital, repair, preventative maintenance and education programs, with the former often being put on the back burner, as witnessed by WJJMS and repeatedly stated by current members: "If we have to choose between bricks and mortar and educational programs, we will choose the latter every time. The current BOE has done a great job of increasing investment here, but still not where we need to be. We have new Facility plans for Town Buildings and School Buildings, but have yet to create funding plans as we have done with the Vehicle and Equipment plans.

BOF controls only the BOE budget's bottom line and although we can influence line items by not approving the bottom line, post BOF approval and referendum, all of the money could be moved out of brick and mortar line items to programs. Although this has been done on other line items, it has not been done with B&M while I have been on BOF, but it would be permitted under the law.

Town budgets pay for the school construction through debt service. To me it makes sense to pay for caring for these buildings as well as other school capital plans through town budgets, allowing BOE to focus on educational programs.

Again not sure this is a Charter issue, not sure how much support the idea has, but something I think there should be discussion on.

Rob