

Jeff Capeci
Judit DeStefano
Paul Lundquist
Deborra Zukowski



TOWN OF NEWTOWN

Minutes

The Charter Revision Communications Ad Hoc Committee met on Thursday, Oct. 6, 2016 in Meeting Room 1 of the Newtown Municipal Center. Committee Chairman Judit DeStefano called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

Present: Mr. Lundquist, Ms. Zukowski, Mr. Capeci, Ms. DeStefano

VOTER COMMENT: None.

MINUTES: MR. LUNDQUIST MOTIONED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF 9/27/16, MS. ZUKOWSKI SECONDED. ALL IN FAVOR.

COMMUNICATIONS: Two emails were shared (attached). Discussion led to the conclusion that slide deck should be reviewed by attorney prior to it being put up on website and prior to further presentation of materials. It was requested that it be done by attorneys by COB 9/12.

NEW BUSINESS

Review of mailer put together by Mr. Lundquist. Minor changes (attached). Discussion around who in town should receive mailer. Group decided it will get pricing for it to go to all households (9,500) and households with at least one registered voter (expected 5,000 – 9,500 – will conform with registrar). Ms. DeStefano will follow up with Finance Director to confirm funding and determine if approvals are necessary.

Discussion re: posting presentation deck to Facebook page. Ms. Zukowski will post grouping of up to 3.

Discussion re: sending letters to Bee. To keep with 'no advocacy' position, group will share informational pamphlet materials.

With no further business, Mr. Capeci motioned to adjourn at 8:45 pm and Mr. Lundquist seconded. All in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,
Judit DeStefano,
Chairman, Charter Revision Communications Committee



Judit Destefano <judit.destefano@gmail.com>

Charter Revision Communications Committee Minutes 9/27

Judit Destefano <judit.destefano@gmail.com>
To: Deborra Zukowski <deborraz@gmail.com>
Cc: Bruce Walczak <bw.reloconsult@snet.net>

Tue, Oct 4, 2016 at 7:25 PM

Thanks for sharing the concern. I will include as communications at our next meeting.

While it was derived from material already approved by our counsel and deemed neutral, I would rather err on the side of caution. I will ask the municipal attorney to review the Power Point for posting to the town site. LC has already authorized the production of neutral material, so we should be in good shape there.

Best,
Judit

On Tue, Oct 4, 2016 at 1:02 PM, Deborra Zukowski <deborraz@gmail.com> wrote:

Hey Judit,

Bruce W. is concerned about posting the prezo on the Town Website, and suggests that we check with the proper authorities to ensure that we remain as compliant with state statute as possible.

Even though the prezo is in the public domain - especially since we used it within the confines of a posted meeting, I agree that it is wise to double check to ensure that we are not violating the spirit (and letter) of state law. Do you think we could get this reviewed soon?

Thanks,
Debbie

PS. Please consider this constituent communication, for our next meeting.

----- Forwarded message -----

From: <bw.reloconsult@snet.net>

Date: Tue, Oct 4, 2016 at 12:54 PM

Subject: RE: FW: Charter Revision Communications Committee Minutes 9/27

To: Deborra Zukowski <deborraz@gmail.com>

Read pages 30-32, its really very clear. Yes it is a public document available under FOI, but places it on the town Web site would be using public funds/

http://www.ct.gov/seec/lib/seec/publications/guidebooks/a_guide_to_financing_a_referendum_question_final.pdf

Bruce

From: Deborra Zukowski [mailto:deborraz@gmail.com]

Sent: Monday, October 03, 2016 5:13 PM

To: Bruce Walczak <bw.reloconsult@snet.net>

Subject: Re: FW: Charter Revision Communications Committee Minutes 9/27

We only had to get approval for the printed material that was for the ballot. But again, I will ask Judit to double check.

On Mon, Oct 3, 2016 at 5:10 PM, <bw.reloconsult@snet.net> wrote:

Not sure about that. Posting on town web site implies spending money. You had to get approval for the printed material you put out so it seems to me the same for posting written material on the web, especially a town web site.

But see what State says.

From: Deborra Zukowski [mailto:deborraz@gmail.com]

Sent: Monday, October 03, 2016 4:52 PM

To: Bruce Walczak <bw.reloconsult@snet.net>

Subject: Re: FW: Charter Revision Communications Committee Minutes 9/27

Yes, attendance was low - only 5 people (not counting Charter Revision folks). My sense is that since the slides were presented in a public session, that they are de facto public records. I'll ask the Chair on Thursday to check, to be sure.

Hopefully our next public forum will go even better.

Debbie

On Mon, Oct 3, 2016 at 4:00 PM, <bw.reloconsult@snet.net> wrote:

Hi sounds like it went well, although low attendance.

Better check with State if you can publish slides, don't they have to go through the same approval process?

bruce

From: Newtownct_minagendas [mailto:newtownct_minagendas-bounces@mm.windigicert.com]

On Behalf Of Minutes and Agendas

Sent: Monday, October 03, 2016 3:26 PM

To: NewtownCT_MinAgendas@mm.windigicert.com

Subject: Charter Revision Communications Committee Minutes 9/27



Judit Destefano <judit.destefano@gmail.com>

Charter Revision Forum

Grogins, David L. <DGrogins@cohenandwolf.com>
To: Judit Destefano <judit.destefano@gmail.com>

Sat, Oct 1, 2016 at 6:05 PM

Judit, As you know I disagree with Al Cramer. The states attorney is not the official to rule on this. I suggest you discuss this with Mary Ann Jacob. For the most part, the state defers to the town attorney on charter questions.

Sent from my iPad

On Oct 1, 2016, at 12:27 PM, Judit Destefano <judit.destefano@gmail.com> wrote:

Hi Dave,

We had a community forum on Tuesday on the Charter Revision. The community members who are concerned about the potential implications of question one (on minority representation on the BOE) again brought up their concerns.

Al Cramer's recommendation is that we contact the State's Attorney to see what their take is on this issue (if we will be in compliance with 9-167 or 9-204 and how that may impact the elections).

I wanted you to know about that recommendation - though of course he may have already gone directly to you with it, and ask if it is a possibility.

Newtown Legislative Council



Charter Revision Communications Committee

Election Day is Tuesday, November 8

We will be voting on changes to Newtown's Charter

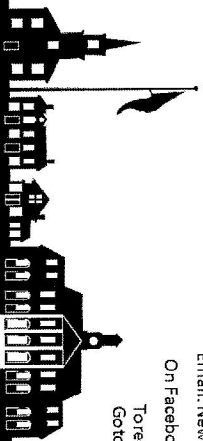
To learn more
about the proposed
changes to the
Charter, come to
one of the
Public Forums

Tues, Sept 27 @ 7:30 PM
~~MUNICIPAL CENTER~~

Sat, Oct 15 @ 10:00 AM
~~BOOTH LIBRARY~~

Thurs, Nov 3 @ 7:00 PM
~~BOOTH LIBRARY~~

Email: NewtownCharterRevision@gmail.com
 On Facebook: Newtown CT Charter Revision
 To review all Charter revisions as proposed:
 Go to the Town website (newtown-ct.gov),
 Under Boards and Commissions,
 click on Charter Revision Commission
 First-Selectman's Office (203) 270-4201



we will be holding
the last of our
three public forums
on . . . at . . .

Below is a brief explanation of the TWO Charter Revision questions that will be included on the Nov 8 ballot

Two questions on the ballot pertain to the Newtown charter. The two questions are independent and the outcome of one does not impact the outcome of the other. Each question can pass even if the other fails.

QUESTION #1: Shall the Charter be amended to provide that the maximum number of members from any one Political Party permitted to serve on the seven (7) member Board of Education shall not exceed four(4), (the current Charter provides that the limitation is five (5) members from any one Political Party)? Yes _____ No _____

EXPLANATION: Approval of Question #1 limits the number of members of the Board of Education from one political party to four (4). This changes the maximum from five (5) to four (4).

QUESTION #2: Shall the remaining Charter Amendments adopted by the Legislative Council on November 18, 2015 be approved notwithstanding the results of question number 1 above? Yes _____ No _____

EXPLANATION: Approval of Question #2 accepts the rest of proposed changes in their entirety, comprised of organizational, non-substantive, and substantive changes made to the document including but not limited to:

- It adds eleven (11) existing Boards and Commissions to the Charter; Water and Sewer Authority; Lake Lillinonah Authority; Lake Zoar Authority; and Newtown Health District Board, Commission on Aging, Economic Development Commission, Inland Wetlands Commission, Pension Commission, Public Safety Commission,
- Self-funded Health Insurance Fund Commission, Sustainable Energy Commission. It gives each Board or Commission a definition and gives a method for filling vacancies.
- It specifically spells out the advisory roles played by the Board of Finance.
- It revises the language of the advisory question provision set forth in Section 6-14(a) of the present Charter.
- It eliminates the Town Meeting and changes the annual appropriation authority of the Legislative Council from \$500,000 to \$1,500,000, with a maximum aggregate authority of 1 mil (currently about \$3,000,000). Appropriations over \$1.5 million will be voted on in referendum.
- It replaces the Town Meeting for disposing of real property with a multi-board approval process. It also removes the use of sealed bid as a method of sale.