

**CHARTER COMMISSION
SPECIAL MEETING
DRAFT MINUTES 8/28/14**

Temporary Chairman Matthew Berger called the initial meeting for the Charter Revision Commission to order at 7:02pm.

Introduction of commission: The following 11 commission members were selected to serve on this commission after an interview process: Gail Shea, Alice Soscia, Stephen Bessette, Jerry Murphy, John Gomes, Connie Fishman, Ashley Gillece, Matthew Berger, Bob Statchen, Amy Hambly, and Susan Jones. All were present for this first meeting.

1. **Election of Officers:** Gail Shea nominated Matthew Berger for Chairman. Many members seconded the motion. All in favor 10-0. John Gomes nominated Stephen Bessette for Vice-Chairman. Connie Frishman seconded. All in favor 10-0.
2. **Meeting Schedule:** The Commission decided to hold its regular meetings on the 4th Thursday of the month. Meeting dates for November & December will be decided at a later date. Gail Shea shared information on the nature of special meetings vs. regular meetings.
 - **Public Hearing:** the group selected a preferred date of September 17, 2014 7pm at Stonington High School. A second choice date will be September 25, 2014. Matt Berger will get with Cindy Ladwig to finalize the date, as it will be advertised.
 - **CTCMA:** Bob Statchen shared information of the CT Town & City Mgmnt. Assoc. This group has expertise on charter revisions and does not charge a fee. The presentation is 20-30 minutes but usually has a lengthy question/answer period. The group shared their comments and concerns. It was agreed to ask the CTCMA to speak only to Finance Board issues. Mr. Bessette brought up the idea of a questionnaire for the public hearing. Mr. Berger stated the commission can keep the public hearing open if needed, to insure all members of the public are heard. Overall, the commissions agreed on the importance of hearing from the public about their concerns and then evaluate those issues.
3. **General Comments:** * Susan Jones inquired about email protocol amongst the commission. It was stated that if all members are emailed/copied, it is considered public record. Gail Shea stated comments outside the meeting should be restricted to organizational activities. *Mr. Statchen wondered if there was enough time to accomplish the commission's task with the structure of one meeting per month. He posed the idea of subcommittees. The group decided to leave this idea open for discussion in the future, if needed. *Name plates will be provided for the meetings to assist all in getting to know each other. Matt Berger or Amy Hambly will handle this
4. **Adjournment:** Mr. Berger adjourned the meeting at 7:37pm

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