

Declined and Withdrawn Suggestions as of 5.21.23 after the 5.20.23 Public Hearing

Item #	Proposal/Suggestion	Proposer(s)	Disposition	Final Decision
A - 1	<p>Affordable Housing Committee</p> <p>3.30.23 After further discussion, consensus is this is not a Charter issue</p> <p>3.1.23 After discussion, the Commission decided it best to table the conversation about the Affordable Housing Committee as additional information continued to be received and both the Chairs of the Affordable Housing Committee and Planning and Zoning will address the Commission.</p> <p>2.13.23 Should the the Ridgefield Affordable Housing Committee currently reporting to the Board of Selectman report to Planning and Zoning, instead. From their webpage, "The Affordable Housing Committee works with organizations and individuals to create more affordable housing in town, and to help people find the housing they need. We report to the Board of Selectmen." (rec'd via 2.13.23 Public Hearing)</p>	Keryn and Nick Cernone	Declined	<p>3.30.23 Mr. Cascella moved, and Mr. Schirm seconded a motion "to decline A-1 on our Tracker as it is not a Charter issue" and " to decline the referral to change the line of reporting for the Affordable Housing to the Planning and Zoning Commission from the Board of Selectman" Motion carried 8-0. Mr. Rettger was absent. (3.30.23 36:00)</p> <p>3.30.23 (per approved minutes) Mr. Cascella moved, and Mr. Schirm seconded a motion to decline to recommend changing the Affordable Housing Committee's reporting line from the Board of Selectman to the Planning and Zoning Commission as it is not a Charter issue. Motion carried 8-0. Mr. Rettger was absent</p>
A - 5	<p>Section 2-1 Incorporation</p> <p>3.16.23 Change Declined: The proposed changes are declined because they do not appear necessary and appear to be technically incorrect. The powers and privileges of the town are not conferred by the State Constitution or reserved by the town. They are granted to the town in the Connecticut General Statutes, as currently described in Section 2-1 of the Charter. The State Constitution authorizes the General Assembly to delegate to the towns such authority "as from time to time it deems appropriate" (Article Tenth of the Constitution), and the General Assembly has done so in the General Statutes.</p> <p>3.2.23 Suggested Change: All the inhabitants dwelling within the territorial limits of the Town of Ridgefield, as heretofore constituted, shall continue to be a body politic and corporate under the name of "The Town of Ridgefield," hereinafter called "the Town," and as such shall have perpetual succession and may hold and exercise all powers and privileges heretofore exercised by said Town and not inconsistent with the provision of this Charter, the additional powers and privileges herein conferred and all powers and privileges conferred upon {or reserved by} Towns under {the State Constitution} the general statutes of the State of Connecticut and the laws of the United States of America. (rec'd via crc@ridgefieldct.org)</p>	John Tartaglia	Declined	<p>3.16.23 Motion by Mr. Cascella to decline the revision language suggested by Mr. Tartaglia to insert the phrases "or reserved by" and "the State Constitution" into <i>Section 2-1 Incorporation</i> of the Charter. Seconded by Mr. Rettger. Motion carried 8-0.</p>
A - 6	<p>Section 2-3 General Grant of Powers</p> <p>3.16.23 Changed Declined: The proposed change is declined because it does not appear necessary. As described in current Section 2-3, the source of the town's powers is the Connecticut General Statutes, enacted pursuant to the authority given to the Connecticut General Assembly in the State Constitution. Those powers include all powers "incident to the management of the property, government and affairs of the Town . . ." and a reference to other applicable laws does not appear necessary.</p> <p>3.2.23 Suggested Change: In addition to all powers granted to Towns under the constitution and General Statutes {or any other applicable laws}, and those which may hereafter be conferred thereby, the Town shall have all powers specifically granted by this Charter and all powers fairly implied in or incident to the powers expressly granted and all other powers incident to the management of the property, government and affairs of the Town, including the power to enter into contracts with the United States or any federal agency, the State of Connecticut or any political subdivision thereof for services and the use of facilities, the exercise of which is not expressly forbidden by the constitution and the general law of the State of Connecticut (rec'd via crc@ridgefieldct.org)</p>	John Tartaglia	Declined	<p>3.16.23 Motion by Mr. Rettger to decline the revision language suggested by Mr. Tartaglia to insert the phrase "or any other applicable laws" into Section 2-3 General Grant of Powers of the Charter Section 2-1 Incorporation. Seconded by Mr. Schirm. Motion carried 8-0.</p>

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A - 8	<p>Voting other than in-person</p> <p>3.16.23 Consensus of the Commission is this is not a Charter issue as voting laws are established at the State level.</p> <p>3.4.23 I'm not sure if this would fall under the charter, but it would be wonderful to update our ability to vote on town matters in a method other than in person at evening town meetings. Perhaps voting could be available throughout the day at town hall or even online when matters arise so that more residents can participate? (rec'd via crc@ridgefieldct.org)</p>	Heather Nunes	Declined	3.16.23 Mr. Cascella moved, and Mr Lordi seconded a motion to decline "moving this referral forward" (1:15, 3/16) Motion carried 8-0.
A - 9	<p>Section 1.1 The Charter</p> <p>3.16.23 The proposed change is declined because "organic law" appears to be the correct phrase. "Organic law" means a system of laws that form the foundation of a government, and it is the phrase used in Connecticut General Statutes Section 7-188, which authorizes any municipality to adopt a charter "which shall be its organic law . . ."</p> <p>TC: "The Charter shall be the <u>organic</u> law of the Town of Ridgefield..."</p> <p>SC: Replace or define the word "<u>organic</u>." I think the residents have different understandings of what this word means and it is the underpinning of the entire document. Suggested way to replace organic is "the principles by which the Town of Ridgefield is governed." Definition of "principles": a theorem or law that has application across a wide field. (rec'd via crc@ridgefieldct.org)</p>	Lynne B. Noyes	Declined	3.16.23 Motion by Mr. Cascella to decline the requests of Ms. Nunes and Mr. Tartaglia to replace the word "organic" in Section 1.1 The Charter of the Charter. Seconded by Ms. Christiansen. Motion carried 8-0.
A - 10	<p>Section 1.1 The Charter</p> <p>3.16.23 The proposed change is declined because "organic law" appears to be the correct phrase. "Organic law" means a system of laws that form the foundation of a government, and it is the phrase used in Connecticut General Statutes Section 7-188, which authorizes any municipality to adopt a charter "which shall be its organic law . . ."</p> <p>3.3.23 TC: "The Charter shall be the organic law of the Town of Ridgefield..."</p> <p>Suggested Change: "The Charter shall be the organic supreme governing law of the Town of Ridgefield..." (rec'd via crc@ridgefieldct.org)</p>	John Tartaglia	Declined	3.16.23 Motion by Mr. Cascella to decline the requests of Ms. Nunes and Mr. Tartaglia to replace the word "organic" in Section 1.1 The Charter of the Charter. Seconded by Ms. Christiansen. Motion carried 8-0.

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A - 11	<p>Section 1.1 The Charter</p> <p>4.13.23 These suggested changes have been raised already through other comments and recommendations and resolved through an updated rewrite in reference to agencies, boards, committees, commissions, departments, etc.</p> <p>3.4.23 Charter Language: The term "board" or "boards," as used in this Charter, shall include all boards, commissions, agencies, and committees except as otherwise specified. TC: "all boards, commissions, agencies and committees... "</p> <p>SC: add subcommittees, i.e."...agencies, committees and subcommittees..." SC: add "whether elected or appointed." *****</p> <p>Charter Language: The term "Town agency," as used in this Charter, shall mean each board, commission, committee, department and agency of the Town for which an appropriation was made in the annual budget; each Town official who is not a member of a board, commission, committee, department or agency for whom an appropriation was made in the annual budget; each separate function of the Town for which the Board of Selectmen is responsible.</p> <p>TC: "each board, commission, committee, department or agency..."</p> <p>SC: define department, it is very ambiguous. I cannot suggest a change because I do not know what it means. (rec'd via crc@ridgefieldct.org)</p>	Lynne B. Noyes	Declined	<p>4.13.23 Mr. Lordi moved, and Mr. Schirm seconded a motion to decline recommended changes put forward in Section 1.1 of the Charter as put forward by Ms. Noyes due to the fact that many of the issues have already been resolved by the Charter Review Commission"; "to decline further considerations of changes to Section 1.1" Motion carried 7-0. (4/13, 1:07)</p>
A - 12	<p>Section 1.1 The Charter</p> <p>3.16.23 The proposed change is declined because it does not appear necessary, and appears to be incorrect in certain details. The principle of home rule is addressed by Article Tenth of the State Constitution, which does not guarantee any particular degree of home rule, but authorizes the General Assembly to delegate such authority to towns "as from time to time it deems appropriate . . ." The General Assembly has done so (see Title 7 of the General Statutes), and that is the source of the town's rights to home rule. Recognition of that delegation of authority in the Charter is not required. The Fundamental Orders referred to in the proposal (adopted in 1639 by the colony) have not been of any legal force or effect since the adoption of the State Constitution, if not earlier.</p> <p>3.2.23 Suggested Change: After defining terms including "resident", "Elector", "Town Agency", etc, add the following last paragraph to Section 1.1</p> <p>THE TOWN RECOGNIZES AND HONORS ITS RIGHTS TO HOME RULE AS GUARANTEED BY THE FUNDAMENTAL ORDERS, THE STATE CONSTITUTION , THE UNITED STATES CONSTITUTION, AND SUCH OTHER GOVERNING LAWS OR RIGHTS TO SELF-GOVERNMENT AS MAY HAVE BY LAW, STATUTE OR CUSTOM BEEN PREVIOUSLY GRANTED OR RESERVED. (rec'd via crc@ridgefieldct.org)</p>	John Tartaglia	Declined	<p>3.16.23 Motion by Mr. Lordi to decline the request by Mr. Tartaglia to add a suggested text regarding Home Rule to <i>Section 1.1 The Charter</i> of the Charter. Seconded by Mr. Schirm. Motion carried 8-0.</p>

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A - 13	<p>Section 2.1 Incorporation (TC= Town Charter: SC = Suggested Charter)</p> <p>4.13.23 The phrase <i>to be a body politic and corporate</i> refers to a corporation that is responsible for the governance of a municipality and it must remain. There is not an opportunity to change the wording.</p> <p>3.4.23 Charter Language: All the inhabitants dwelling within the territorial limits of the Town of Ridgefield, as heretofore constituted, shall continue <u><i>to be a body politic and corporate</i></u> under the name of "The Town of Ridgefield," hereinafter called "the Town," and as such shall have perpetual succession and may hold and exercise all powers and privileges heretofore exercised by said Town and not inconsistent with the provision of this Charter, the</p> <p>TC: "<u><i>... to be a body politic and corporate...</i></u>"</p> <p>SC: Is this a generally recognized definition of a group whose members generally change over time or an accepted legal term to define who has rights? I have not encountered it previously. I do understand precisely what this Section means and why it is included, but I want the Charter to be as clear and precise as possible without excessive verbiage. (rec'd via crc@ridgefieldct.org)</p>	Lynne B. Noyes	Declined	4.13.23 Mr. Rettger moved, and Mr. Cascella seconded a motion "to decline this as it is not a correct change" Motion carried 7-0. (4/13, 1:09)
A - 14	<p>Section 2.3 General grant of powers (TC= Town Charter: SC = Suggested Charter)</p> <p>4.13.23 After discussion by the Commission and review of Mr. Marconi's comments about grants, the consensus of the Commission is that Section 2.3 talks about the general powers the Town (nothing specific to boards) and that throughout the Charter the duties and powers of town officials and boards are adequately addressed.</p> <p>3.13.23: Rebecca asked Mr. Marconi about grants in reference to this suggested change. Mr. Marconi's reply: <i>Grants are always issued with/for a specific purpose which is normally outlined in the application. The actual use is decided prior to the application being submitted. The housing grant was requested by the Affordable Housing Committee through the Board of Selectmen and approved by the Ct. Dept. of Housing. This grant had a very specific use which was for the study of the Prospect Ridge area for additional housing to be located adjacent to the previous building project.</i></p> <p>3.4.23 Charter Language: In addition to all powers granted to Towns under the constitution and General Statutes, and those which may hereafter be conferred thereby, the Town shall have all powers specifically granted by this Charter and all powers fairly implied in or incident to the powers expressly granted and all other powers incident to the management of the property, government and affairs of the Town, including the power to enter into contracts with the United States or any federal agency, the State of Connecticut or any political subdivision thereof for services and the use of facilities, the exercise of which is not expressly forbidden by the constitution and the general law of the State of Connecticut.</p> <p>TC: "The Town shall have all power...including the power to enter into contracts..."</p> <p>SC: If this means contracts entered into or funds allocated to the Town, I think it should be made clear who can and cannot negotiate on behalf of the Town. An example is the current negotiations being carried out with the State by the Affordable Housing Committee Chairperson as to reallocation of funds the State allocated for an assessment of Prospect Ridge. According to the way I read the Charter the Town owns those funds and has power over them as they were allocated or to be reallocated. The Committee does not have power over the use of these funds except as defined by the Town. So who has power needs to be more precisely defined or there needs to be more specific oversight defined in the Charter of all funds allocated to the town from any source. (rec'd via crc@ridgefieldct.org)</p>	Lynne B. Noyes	Declined	4.13.23 Mr. Zagorec moved, and Mr. Rettger seconded a motion to "decline further consideration of Section 2.3" . Motion carried 7-0. (4/13, 1:13)

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A - 16	<p>Section 3-6 Legal notice (TC= Town Charter: SC = Suggested Charter)</p> <p>4.13.23 The Commission appreciates this suggestion and has heard reference to it and variations over the last few weeks. By law, Town Meetings must be advertised in the newspaper. While still advertising in the newspaper, Ridgefield has begun to use other mediums, like Ridgefield Alerts, the Town website, and various social media.</p> <p>.3.4.23 Charter Language: <u>Legal notice of all Town Meetings shall be advertised in a newspaper</u> having a general circulation in the Town at least five days prior to a Town Meeting.</p> <p>TC: <u>"Legal notice of all Town Meetings shall be advertised in a newspaper..."</u></p> <p>SC: I believe you are all aware that the definition of where all matters requiring public notification in the Charter must be changed to include multiple forms of media including some form of electronic communications. However I stress that words such as "the emphasis must be on reaching all segments of the residents and encouraging community involvement" have to be added. For example, do the preponderance of seniors still read a newspaper and might not have on-line access? I view notification of as many town residents as practicable as a crucial role for everything in this Charter requiring public notification. I do not think this effort has been made over the past few years. If you really want examples, I can provide. (rec'd via crc@ridgefieldct.org)</p>	Lynne B. Noyes	Declined	4.13.23 Mr. Lordi moved, and Mr. Cascella seconded a motion "to decline the submitted changes to Section 3.6 as put forward". Motion carried 7-0. (4/13, 1:28)
A - 17	<p>Section 3.7 Organization and procedure. (TC= Town Charter: SC = Suggested Charter)</p> <p>4.13.23 The Town of Ridgefield Information and Guidelines for Boards, Committees, and Commissions adopted by the Board of Selectmen on Dec 7, 2022 is intended for use by appointed and elected officials and dedicated to the principles of open and transparent government. The Handbook specifically states in Section 4.12 that Rules of Procedure for all meetings be governed by the Charter and Roberts Rules of Order. If members of Boards, Committees, or Commissions are not doing their job correctly, the administrative rules of the meeting don't necessarily need to be in the Charter to address this but rather gaps should be reported to the Board of Selectmen.</p> <p>3.4.23 Charter Language: The First Selectman or a representative of the First Selectman shall call the meeting to order and the meeting shall choose a moderator. All business shall be conducted as provided by Chapter 90 of the General Statutes, as amended, and in accordance with "Robert's Rules of Order - of latest revision. Unless otherwise provided by this Charter, action of all Town Meetings shall be by a majority of the members of the Town Meeting present and voting at the meeting or voting in a referendum held in accordance with this Charter.</p> <p>TC: "All business shall be conducted as provided by Chapter 90 of the General Statutes, as amended, and in accordance with "Robert's Rules of Order - of latest revision. Unless otherwise provided by this Charter,"</p> <p>SC: This statement needs to be put in a general Section of the Charter, not solely specific to Town Meetings. Further upon election or appointment ALL MEMBERS (not just Chairpersons) of all boards, commissions, agencies and committees and subcommittees should receive a copy of the current Robert's Rules of Order and a copy of the booklet "How to Run a Meeting" which I believe was created by or for the Charter Revision Committee. There must be oversight to ensure that all meetings are conducted accordingly with a place for residents or members to report grievances, perhaps a town mailbox. A certain number of non-conforming actions should perhaps warrant an AUTOMATIC ethics review. There are meetings where Robert's Rules of Order are blatantly disregarded as well as some members who overtly/purposefully do not honor their oath of office, which in part includes respecting residents and acting in a manner consistent with their role. Some verbiage to eliminate bad behavior has to be included in the Charter as well as what the oversight is, and what the remedy is. Emphasis on community involvement and elector attendance at ALL public meetings must be a requirement in the Charter, so as to not allow Chairpersons to merely tolerate some public comments which is often the case. Hundreds if not thousands of residents feel this way. A Chairperson's remedy for an individual being out-of-order is to declare thus by Robert's Rules of Order, not by any other means(well unless something becomes illegal).</p> <p>SC: As part of the oversight a requirement to record all meetings must be part of the Charter. If recording equipment is not available. Zoom can be used solely for the purpose of</p>	Lynne B. Noyes	Declined	4.13.23 Mr. Lordi moved, and Mr. Cascella seconded a motion "to decline any recommended changes to Section 3.7 as recorded". Motion carried 7-0. (4/13, 1:33)

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	<p>SC: As part of the oversight a requirement to record all meetings must be part of the Charter. If recording equipment is not available, Zoom can be used solely for the purpose of recording and then the entire meeting can be posted and made public. We want Ridgefield to be a vibrant, cultural, historic center, with neighborhood areas, affordable housing and support for our esteemed elders, with recreational areas as deemed appropriate and at the same time maintain open space. We want to encompass the needs of many and be a community that engenders help to those of us in need. I have lived here over forty years and have met very few residents who do not say the same about how we envision Ridgefield. In my opinion, a major opportunity to accomplish this is by being open, transparent, and encouraging involvement. YES, I do feel it is the role of the Charter to state this succinctly. (rec'd via crc@ridgefieldct.org)</p>			
A - 18	<p>Section 3-13 Creation of new boards, commissions. (TC= Town Charter: SC = Suggested Charter)</p> <p>4.13.23 The current Charter language below is a sweeping sentence to address any boards, commissions, or groups not either enumerated in the Charter, appointed by the BOS, or created by Ordinance. Previously, the Commission received a list of every Board, Committee, and Commission in the Town of Ridgefield and none have been created using this clause. Adding language to the Charter to limit the times an appointed committee can be reappointed (like Risk Management or AHC) isn't realistic</p> <p>3.4.23 Charter Language / TC: "The creation of any permanent board, commission, department or agency not otherwise provided for in this Charter shall require approval by vote of the Town Meeting."</p> <p>SC: First, how is this enforced? And what is "permanent?" I would call the actions of the Affordable Housing Committee as establishing itself as a permanent committee. It has had the same Chairperson for approximately 25 years, is that not a qualifier for permanent? The Affordable Housing Committee was never approved by vote of a Town Meeting. It should automatically be dissolved now that its task is complete, just as the Charter Review Committee will sunset when your job is finished and another Committee charged with the same function will only be reconstituted when Charter revisions are required again as defined by the Charter itself.</p> <p>SC: The Charter must define an automatic dissolution time frame for any Committee that has not been approved by vote of a Town Meeting. The Board of Selectmen may choose to appoint a different committee with a substantially similar charge, but it must be a new committee and it too would have to be dissolved automatically after it completes whatever its charged task is. There simply is no permanent Affordable Housing Committee or any other permanent committee unless voted on. The Charter already says this, but the Charter does not define how and when such a committee shall be dissolved. (rec'd via crc@ridgefieldct.org)</p>	Lynne B. Noyes	Declined	4.13.23 Mr. Lordi moved, and Mr. Schirm seconded a motion "to decline to recommend changes to Section 3.13 as referred by Ms. Noyes". Motion carried 7-0. (4/13, 1:39)
A - 19	<p>Section 3-14. Membership in regional organizations (TC= Town Charter: SC = Suggested Charter)</p> <p>4.13.23 All minutes from intergovernmental organizations are published which means Town of Ridgefield representatives will have their statements recorded. If there is a particular concern, it should be raised as a Public Comment during BOS meetings.</p> <p>3.4.23 Charter Language / TC: "The Town may, by ordinance approved by the Town Meeting and pursuant to provisions in the General Statutes, join, determine how it shall choose representatives, or discontinue its membership in any such regional, intergovernmental organization created by state law, in such a manner as is consistent with this Charter."</p> <p>SC: How is this monitored? I would suggest it is not monitored at all. Therefore the Charter needs to define oversight. That may be as simple as requiring public notification by members of all their affiliates once a year and the adoption of a Town media plan. No one should speak in any public forum as representing any positions for Ridgefield unless there has been a defined designation to be a town representative. I believe some neighboring towns have media plans and perhaps WesCog. (rec'd via crc@ridgefieldct.org)</p>	Lynne B. Noyes	Declined	4.13.23 Mr. Lordi moved, and Mr. Schirm seconded a motion "to decline recommended changes to Section 3.14" of . Motion carried 7-0. (4/13, 1:45)

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A - 20	<p>Section 4 Elections and Elective Officers</p> <p>4.13.23 This has previously been discussed and the Commission does not see any needed changes. The Town Clerk and the First of Selectman's office monitor reappointments</p> <p>3.4.23 SC: For brevity, I will address this section in entirety.</p> <p>Re: Reappointment of individual members to all town Boards, Commissions, and Committees (BCCs)</p> <p>The reappointment or reconfirmation of individual members to various non-elected BCCs seems inconsistent or in some cases not defined at all. I suggest standardizing this process to make it equitable to all BCC members and for the benefit of the residents of Ridgefield.</p> <p>Some BCCs reappoint members at the beginning of each new term for that individual by requesting they make an in person statement to the Board of Selectmen as to why they should be reappointed (I understand that different BCCs and individuals within BCCs may have different terms so that reappointment years may vary by the persons' term).</p> <p>I feel there is inconsistency in the reappointment process. For example, my understanding is that members of some BCCs were not reappointed at all in 2023 and possibly in other years as well. One example is the Affordable Housing Committee (AHC). To be appointed to the AHC new members must be interviewed by the BOS. However none of the members whose terms expired were reappointed in 2023 by being interviewed by the BOS. I cannot find any information on reappointment or term length for the AHC.</p> <p>I realize the AHC was formed by the BOS and is not specified in The Town Charter. Regardless of how any BCCs are formed each should be defined in The Town Charter and all member reappointments should be standardized.</p> <p>I am using the AHC as an example only since according to the Charter it no longer exists. (rec'd via crc@ridgefieldct.org)</p>	Lynne B. Noyes	Declined	4.13.23 Mr. Schirm moved, and Mr. Cascella seconded "a motion to decline". Motion carried 7-0. (4/13, 1:48)
A - 21	<p>Section 4-6 Minority representation.</p> <p>4.6.23 It is the Commission's opinion that the Charter addresses this in Section 5-2 and therefore this suggested change is unnecessary. .</p> <p>3.3.23 Current Charter Language: Minority representation on any elective board or commission shall be determined in accordance with provisions of the General Statutes, unless otherwise specified in this Charter.</p> <p>The maximum number of any such board or commission who may be members of the same political party shall be as specified in the following table:</p> <p>Suggested Change: Minority representation on any elective board, or commission, or any appointive committee shall be determined in accordance with provisions of the General Statutes, unless otherwise specified in this Charter (rec'd via crc@ridgefieldct.org)</p>	John Tartaglia	Declined	<p>4.6.23 Mr. Rettger moved, and Mr. Cascella seconded a motion to "decline to recommend changing the Charter as presented by Mr. Tartaglia" Motion carried 9-0. (4/6, 1:19)</p> <p>4.6.23 (per approved minutes) Mr. Rettger moved, and Mr. Cascella seconded a motion to decline to recommend the suggested revision to Section 4-6 of the Charter submitted by Mr. Tartaglia. Motion carried 9-0.</p>

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A - 22a	<p>Section 4-11 Planning and Zoning Commission</p> <p>4.6.23 After discussion, the Commission agreed to address the three suggested changes independently. Tracker A-22a will address the first red line to strike out "include" and to add the words, "are limited to". Consensus is this might hamstring the Commission on address new State Statutes or other items as they come along.</p> <p>3.3.23 Current Charter Language:The functions and responsibilities of the Planning and Zoning Commission include the preparation and adoption of a Plan of Conservation and Development, the designation of zoning districts in accordance with that plan, and the preparation, adoption, and implementation of zoning and subdivision regulations in furtherance of the Plan of Conservation and Development as specified in Chapters 124 and 126 of the General Statutes. To the extent provided by the General Statutes, and within the limits of its appropriations, the commission shall appoint, by vote of a majority of its members, a Director of Planning and a Zoning Enforcement Officer, and engage such employees as are necessary for its work and may contract with professional consultants.</p> <p>Suggested Changes: The functions and responsibilities of the Planning and Zoning Commission include are limited to the preparation and adoption of a Plan of Conservation and Development, the designation of zoning districts in accordance with that plan, and the preparation, adoption, and implementation of zoning and subdivision regulations in furtherance of the Plan of Conservation and Development as specified in Chapters 124 and 126 of the General Statutes. To the extent provided by the General Statutes, and within the limits of its appropriations, the commission the Board of Selectmen shall appoint, by vote of a majority of its members, a Director of Planning and a Zoning Enforcement Officer, and engage such employees as are necessary for its Planning and Zoning Commission work and may contract with professional consultants. (rec'd via crc@ridgefieldct.org)</p>	John Tartaglia	Declined	<p>4.6.23 Mr. Cascella moved, and Ms. Christiansen seconded a motion that "we do not accept his change from 'include' to "are limited to". Motion carried 9-0. (4/6, 1:23)</p> <p>4.6.23 (per approved minutes) Mr. Cascella moved, and Ms. Christiansen seconded a motion to decline to recommend the suggested revision to Section 4-11 of the Charter to change "include" with "are limited to" submitted by Mr. Tartaglia. Motion carried 9-0.</p>
A-22b	<p>Section 4-11 Planning and Zoning Commission</p> <p>4.6.23 After discussion, the Commission agreed to address the three suggested changes independently. Tracker A-22b will address the suggested change to allow the BOS to appoint the Director of Planning and Zoning Enforcement Officer. Discussion focused on how close the Director and the Commission work and the importance of finding the right fit which means allowing the Commission to hire for the position. .</p> <p>3.3.23 Current Charter Language:The functions and responsibilities of the Planning and Zoning Commission include the preparation and adoption of a Plan of Conservation and Development, the designation of zoning districts in accordance with that plan, and the preparation, adoption, and implementation of zoning and subdivision regulations in furtherance of the Plan of Conservation and Development as specified in Chapters 124 and 126 of the General Statutes. To the extent provided by the General Statutes, and within the limits of its appropriations, the commission shall appoint, by vote of a majority of its members, a Director of Planning and a Zoning Enforcement Officer, and engage such employees as are necessary for its work and may contract with professional consultants.</p> <p>Suggested Changes: The functions and responsibilities of the Planning and Zoning Commission include are limited to the preparation and adoption of a Plan of Conservation and Development, the designation of zoning districts in accordance with that plan, and the preparation, adoption, and implementation of zoning and subdivision regulations in furtherance of the Plan of Conservation and Development as specified in Chapters 124 and 126 of the General Statutes. To the extent provided by the General Statutes, and within the limits of its appropriations, the commission the Board of Selectmen shall appoint, by vote of a majority of its members, a Director of Planning and a Zoning Enforcement Officer, and engage such employees as are necessary for its Planning and Zoning Commission work and may contract with professional consultants. (rec'd via crc@ridgefieldct.org)</p>	John Tartaglia	Declined	<p>4.6.23 Mr. Rettger moved, and Mr. Cascella seconded a motion" to decline this recommendation" Motion carried 9-0. (4/6, 1:27)</p> <p>4.6.23 (per approved minutes) Mr. Rettger moved, and Mr. Cascella seconded a motion to decline to recommend the suggested revision to Section 4-11 of the Charter to change how the Director of Planning is appointed submitted by Mr. Tartaglia. Motion carried 9-0.</p>

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A-22c	<p>Section 4-11 Planning and Zoning Commission</p> <p>4.6.23 After discussion, the Commission agreed to address the three suggested changes independently. Tracker A-22c will address the suggested change of "its" to "Planning and Zoning Commission". This seems to be a grammar concern needed if A-22b was accepted but it was not and therefore this change is no longer required. .</p> <p>3.3.23 Current Charter Language: The functions and responsibilities of the Planning and Zoning Commission include the preparation and adoption of a Plan of Conservation and Development, the designation of zoning districts in accordance with that plan, and the preparation, adoption, and implementation of zoning and subdivision regulations in furtherance of the Plan of Conservation and Development as specified in Chapters 124 and 126 of the General Statutes. To the extent provided by the General Statutes, and within the limits of its appropriations, the commission shall appoint, by vote of a majority of its members, a Director of Planning and a Zoning Enforcement Officer, and engage such employees as are necessary for its work and may contract with professional consultants.</p> <p>Suggested Changes: The functions and responsibilities of the Planning and Zoning Commission include are limited to the preparation and adoption of a Plan of Conservation and Development, the designation of zoning districts in accordance with that plan, and the preparation, adoption, and implementation of zoning and subdivision regulations in furtherance of the Plan of Conservation and Development as specified in Chapters 124 and 126 of the General Statutes. To the extent provided by the General Statutes, and within the limits of its appropriations, the commission-the Board of Selectmen shall appoint, by vote of a majority of its members, a Director of Planning and a Zoning Enforcement Officer, and engage such employees as are necessary for its Planning and Zoning Commission work and may contract with professional consultants. (rec'd via crc@ridgefieldct.org)</p>	John Tartaglia	Declined	<p>4.6.23 Mr. Larsen moved, and Mr. Cascella seconded a motion "to decline this recommendation" Motion carried 9-0. (4/6, 1:28)</p> <p>4.6.23 (per approved minutes) Mr. Larsen moved, and Mr. Cascella seconded a motion to decline to recommend the suggested revision to Section 4-11 of the Charter to change "its" with "Planning and Zoning Commission" submitted by Mr. Tartaglia. Motion carried 9-0.</p>
A - 23	<p>Section 5-1 Appointive boards.</p> <p>4.6.23 Consensus by the Commission is that the minutes submitted to the Town Clerk address what actions are taken by each Board, Committee, and Commission.</p> <p>3.3.23 Current Charter Language: Annually, by January 31, all appointive boards shall submit a report on attendance at meetings held during the prior calendar year to the Town Clerk. Additional appointive boards may be created and their powers and duties specified by ordinance passed at a Town Meeting. Appointive boards authorized by this section may be abolished or consolidated, their powers and duties may be altered and the number or term of office of their members may be changed by ordinance.</p> <p>Suggested Changes: Annually, by January 31, all appointive boards shall submit a report on THEIR ACTIVITY, THEIR RECOMMENDATIONS AND attendance at meetings held during the prior calendar year to the Town Clerk. Additional appointive boards may be created and SHALL BE GIVEN A SPOECIFIC MANDATE AND their powers and duties specified by ordinance passed at a Town Meeting. Appointive boards authorized by this section may be abolished or consolidated, their MANDATE, powers and duties may be altered and the number or term of office of their members may be changed by ordinance. (rec'd via crc@ridgefieldct.org)</p>	John Tartaglia	Declined	<p>4.6.23 Mr. Larsen moved, and Mr. Cascella seconded a motion "to decline". Motion carried 9-0. (4/6, 1:38)</p> <p>4.6.23 (per approved minutes) Mr. Larsen moved, and Mr. Cascella seconded a motion to decline to recommend the suggested revision to Section 5.1 of the Charter submitted by Mr. Tartaglia. Motion carried 9-0.</p>

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Item #	Proposal/Suggestion	Proposer(s)	Disposition	Final Decision
A - 24	<p>Section 5-2 Appointments to appointive boards and commissions.</p> <p>4.6.23 Consensus of the Commission is that this suggested change is already accomplished through existing Charter language. All Section 5 Appointed Boards have definitive terms and BOS appointed Boards expire when there is an election. The goal of the suggested change is already in the Charter</p> <p>Current Charter Language: All terms shall be established to expire as nearly as possible at regularly staggered annual or biennial intervals. A member shall continue to hold office until a successor has been appointed and has qualified.</p> <p>Membership on all appointive boards provided by this article shall be determined in accordance with the minority representation law as set forth in the General Statutes unless otherwise specified in this Charter.</p> <p>Suggested Changes: All terms shall be established to expire as nearly as possible at regularly staggered annual or biennial intervals. A member shall continue to hold office until a successor has been appointed and has qualified. EVERY MEMBER OF EVERY APPOINTIVE COMMITTEE SHALL HAVE A TERM OF OFFICE LIMITED TO THE TERM OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN AND SHALL BE -REAPPOINTED THEREAFTER BY THE BOARD OF SELECTMAN AND SHALL NOT OTHERWISE ACT IN ANY OFFICIAL CAPACITY UNLESS SO RE-APPOINTED. Membership on all appointive boards provided by this article shall be determined in accordance with the minority representation law as set forth in the General Statutes unless otherwise specified in this Charter. (rec'd via crc@ridgefieldct.org)</p>	John Tartaglia	Declined	<p>4.6.23 Mr. Rettger moved, and Mr. Schirm seconded a "motion to decline this" Motion carried 9-0. (4/6, 1:43)</p> <p>4.6.23 (per approved minutes) Mr. Rettger moved, and Mr. Schirm seconded a motion to decline to recommend the suggested revision to Section 5.2 of the Charter submitted by Mr. Tartaglia. Motion carried 9-0.</p>
A - 25	<p>Section 5-4. Architectural Advisory Committee.</p> <p>4.6.23 Consensus of the Commission is to leave the word character as it is more comprehensive.</p> <p>3.3.23 The Commission accepted a Technical Change on 3/2/23 to reword 5-4 as per below with the red line: The Architectural Advisory Committee shall provide timely opinions and advice regarding architectural designs and materials of buildings, structures and/or other construction, landscape and site plans, lighting, and signage to the Planning and Zoning Commission for the purpose of assisting the Commission in its responsibility to ensure that the proposed exterior contained in applications pending before the Planning and Zoning Commission—architectural designs and materials of buildings, structures and/or other construction, landscape and site plans, lighting, and signage— harmonize with the New England village character of Ridgefield, including the Village District, its constituent neighborhoods, and surrounding uses; protect property values; and preserve and improve the Town's appearance and beauty.</p> <p>Mr. Tartaglia is further suggesting a change to the word character: Suggested further change: harmonize with the New England village character style of Ridgefield, including the Village District, its constituent neighborhoods, and surrounding uses; protect property values; and preserve and improve the Town's appearance and beauty. (rec'd via crc@ridgefieldct.org)</p>	John Tartaglia	Declined	<p>4.6.23 Mr. Rettger moved, and Mr. Schirm seconded a motion "to decline this as unnecessary" Motion carried 9-0. (4/6, 1:33)</p> <p>4.6.23 (per approved minutes) Mr. Rettger moved, and Mr. Schirm seconded a motion to decline to recommend the suggested revision to Section 4-11 of the Charter to change "character" with "style" submitted by Mr. Tartaglia. Motion carried 9-0.</p>

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Item #	Proposal/Suggestion	Proposer(s)	Disposition	Final Decision
A - 26	<p>Section 5-8 Economic and Community Development Commission.</p> <p>4.6.23 After Commission conversation the suggested change seems to be what ECDC is asking to have removed. The extra language seems cumbersome and unnecessary for the Charter.</p> <p>Current Charter Language: The Economic and Community Development Commission shall consist of seven members serving one-year terms. The Commission will seek to implement orderly and planned economic development in keeping with the character of the Town. The Commission will seek to involve all agencies, commissions, boards, and departments in the Town, which are involved in, or are affected by, economic development, as well as the residents of the Town, in its work to promote economic development.</p> <p>Suggested Change: The Economic and Community Development Commission shall consist of seven members serving one-year terms. The Commission will OBTAIN, COLLECT AND SUMMARIZE AVAILABLE AND RELEVANT ECONOMIC DATA RELATED TO THE ECONOMIC ACTIVITY OF THE TOWN, COLLECT SUGGESTIONS CONCERNING ECONOMIC PROMOTION, ENCOURAGEMENT AND GROWTH OF ECONOMIC ACTIVITY, MIC DEVELOPMENT IN THE TOWN, COORDINATE ITS COLLECTION OF DATA WITH OTHER TOWN AGENCIES AND REGULARLY REPORT ITS FULLY AND FAITHFULLY REPORT ITS FINDINGS TO THE BOS AT LEAST 4 TIMES PER YEAR. The Commission will seek to implement orderly and planned economic development in keeping with the character of the Town. The Commission will seek to involve all agencies, commissions, boards, and departments in the Town, which are involved in, or are affected by, economic development, as well as the residents of the Town, in its work to promote economic development. (rec'd via crc@ridgefieldct.org)</p>	John Tartaglia	Declined	<p>4.6.23 Mr. Lordi moved, and Ms. Christiansen seconded a "motion to decline to recommend the change" revision to Section 5.8 of the Charter submitted by Mr. Tartaglia. Motion carried 9-0. (4/6, 1:45)</p> <p>4.6.23 (per approved minutes) Mr. Lordi moved, and Ms. Christiansen seconded a motion to decline to recommend the suggested revision to Section 5.8 of the Charter submitted by Mr. Tartaglia. Motion carried 9-0.</p>
A - 27	<p>Section 5-16 Committees.</p> <p>4.6.23 After discussion, the Commission feels it is important to have continuity within Boards, Committees, and Commissions, and to allow conversations between outgoing incumbents and successors. This means deleting the suggested change would defeat that purpose.</p> <p>Current Charter Language: Appointments and terms: Except as otherwise provided by the ordinance or resolution establishing a committee, the term of office of appointees to committees shall terminate 30 days after the next regular Town election, and the Board of Selectmen shall act as the initial appointing authority, shall choose successors, and shall fill all vacancies, except that: If the committee was established by vote at a Town Meeting and the members of that committee were either elected or confirmed by the Town Meeting, the Selectmen shall call a special Town Meeting for filling any vacancy or choosing successors, and the incumbents may remain in office until their successors have been duly chosen in this manner.</p> <p>Suggested Change: Appointments and terms: Except as otherwise provided by the ordinance or resolution establishing a committee, the term of office of appointees to committees shall terminate 30 days after the next regular Town election, and the Board of Selectmen shall act as the initial appointing authority, shall choose successors, and shall fill all vacancies, except that: If the committee was established by vote at a Town Meeting and the members of that committee were either elected or confirmed by the Town Meeting, the Selectmen shall call a special Town Meeting for filling any vacancy or choosing successors, and the incumbents may remain in office until their successors have been duly chosen in this manner. (rec'd via crc@ridgefieldct.org)</p>	John Tartaglia	Declined	<p>4.6.23 Ms. Christiansen moved, and Mr. Larsen seconded a "to decline this". Motion carried 9-0. (4/6, 1:48)</p> <p>4.6.23 (per approved minutes) Ms. Christiansen moved, and Mr. Larsen seconded a motion to decline to recommend the suggested revision to Section 5.16 of the Charter submitted by Mr. Tartaglia. Motion carried 9-0.</p>

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Item #	Proposal/Suggestion	Proposer(s)	Disposition	Final Decision
A - 28	<p>Section 5-17 Removal for cause.</p> <p>4.6.23 The general language of "for cause" seems broad enough to manage through any concerns with any members of an appointive board or committee. The Commission believes this change is not necessary.</p> <p>Current Charter Language: A member of an appointive board or committee may be removed for cause by the Board of Selectmen, but no such removal for cause shall be effected unless the member...</p> <p>Suggested Change: A member of an appointive board or committee may be removed FOR ANY REASON AT THE SOLE DISCRETION BY VOTE OF THE BOS for cause by the Board of Selectmen, but no such removal for cause shall be effected unless the member: (rec'd via crc@ridgefieldct.org)</p>	John Tartaglia	Declined	<p>4.6.23 Mr. Lordi moved, and Mr. Schirm seconded "a motion to decline the recommended change" . Motion carried 9-0. (4/6, 1:51)</p> <p>4.6.23 (per approved minutes) Mr. Lordi moved, and Mr. Schirm seconded a motion to decline to recommend the suggested revision to Section 5.17 of the Charter submitted by Mr. Tartaglia. Motion carried 9-0.</p>
A - 29	<p>Affordable Housing Committee</p> <p>3.23.23 Speaking from his personal point of view, Mr. David Goldenberg, current Chair of the AHC stated, "I believe this proposal should be disregarded entirely ...as our recent plan clearly demonstrates there is a great need for additional affordable housing in Ridgefield...further it is not within the authority of the Charter Revision Committee to dissolve a committee appointed by the Board of Selectman".</p> <p>3.16.23 The Commission agreed this suggestion will be addressed as part of the 3.23.23 meeting.</p> <p>3.6.23 Now that the Affordable Housing committee has submitted its Affordable Housing Plan to the state, the committee should be dissolved and or report directly to PNZ. Affordable Housing and the management of our units regarding annual certification can be done within the PNZ ranks with help from former Affordable Housing Committee members. (rec'd via crc@ridgefieldct.org)</p>	Debra Franceschini	Declined	<p>4.6.23 Mr. Cascella moved, and Mr. Schirm seconded a motion "to decline recommendations that the AHC be dissolved because it is not a Charter issue" (33:24). Motion carried 9-0.</p> <p>4.6.23 (per approved minutes) Mr. Cascella moved, and Mr. Schirm seconded a motion to decline to recommend the Affordable Housing Committee be dissolved since it is not a Charter issue. Motion carried 9-0.</p>
A - 30	<p>Section 4-6 Minority Representation 4-15 Board of Finance.</p> <p>3.16.23 State statute allows 4-1 representation for all 5-member Boards except the Board of Selectman. State statute allows towns to increase minority representation on any Board as desired but minority representation on a Board cannot be less than the State requirement. The Commission chose to decline any recommendations to</p> <p>3.6.23 The BOF having a 4-1 part allotment. Why not 3-2? (rec'd via crc@ridgefieldct.org)</p>	Debra Franceschini	Declined	<p>3.16.23 Mr. Lordi moved, and Mr. Schirm seconded to "decline to move forward with modifications to Section 4-6" (1:30, 3/16). Motion carried 7-1 with Ms. Welton opposing.</p>
A - 31	<p>Section 4-8 Election of the Board of Selectmen.</p> <p>3.16.23 General consensus of the Board is that this is not needed</p> <p>3.6.23 BOS all running for reelection at the same time. (rec'd via crc@ridgefieldct.org)</p>	Debra Franceschini	Declined	<p>3.16.23 Mr. Rettger moved, and Ms. Christiansen seconded a motion to decline to recommend Ms. Franceschini's change to Section 4-8 of the Charter. Motion carried 7-1 with Mr. Schrim opposing.</p>

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Item #	Proposal/Suggestion	Proposer(s)	Disposition	Final Decision
A - 33	<p>Freedeom of Information Act Guidelines</p> <p>3.16.23 The consensus of the Commission is this is not a Charter issue</p> <p>3.6.23 Various town committees not following FOIA meeting guidelines and not being properly noticed. (rec'd via crc@ridgefieldct.org)</p>	Debra Franceschini	Declined	3.16.23 Motion by Mr. Cascella to decline the request by Ms. Franceschini to address various Town committees not following FOIA guidelines. This is not a Charter issue. Seconded by Ms. Christiansen. Motion carried 8-0.
A - 34	<p>How does an unaffiliated voter run for office</p> <p>3.16.23 The consensus of the Commission is this is not a Charter issue</p> <p>3.6.23 How would someone who's unaffiliated run for office without picking a side or being endorsed by the R or D party? (rec'd via crc@ridgefieldct.org)</p>	Debra Franceschini	Declined	3.16.23 Motion by Mr. Rettger to decline the request by Ms. Franceschini to answer the question on how someone who is unaffiliated runs for office. This is not a Charter issue. Seconded by Ms. Christiansen. Motion carried 8-0.
A - 35	<p>Section 6-1 Organization.</p> <p>4.6.23 Similiar to A-28, the Commission believes the existing language meets the needs of the Town</p> <p>Current Charter Language: The First Selectman shall provide each person appointed to a board with a copy of the ordinance, or other source, which defines the duties of the office.</p> <p>Suggested Change: The First Selectman shall provide each person appointed to a board with a copy of the ordinance, or other source and a specific mandate, which defines the duties and limitations of the office. (rec'd via crc@ridgefieldct.org)</p>	John Tartaglia	Declined	<p>4.6.23 Mr. Lordi moved, and Mr. Lansen seconded "a motion to decline to recommend changing Section 6.1". Motion carried 9-0. (4/6, 1:52)</p> <p>4.6.23 (per approved minutes) Mr. Lordi moved, and Mr. Lansen seconded a motion to decline to recommend the suggested revision to Section 6.1 of the Charter submitted by Mr. Tartaglia. Motion carried 9-0.</p>
A-36	<p>Broadcast Meetings</p> <p>4.6.23 The Committee discussed and 'must' means a group cannot have a meeting unless it is broadcast or recorded. Many of the larger Committees, Boards, and Commissions already stream their meeting but the suggestion might be overly restrictive to every Board, Commission or Committee. The Town Clerk made a suggestion relative to Town Meetings which the CRC accepted. This suggestion might be best served to be part of the Guidelines.</p> <p>Article I: General Provisions Sect. 19-2 (Note: Not sure what Section 19-2 is)</p> <p>Current Charter Language: Broadcast meetings - "... proceedings of such body may be broadcast or recorded for broadcast..."</p> <p>3.16.23 Suggestion: Remove the word "may" and replace it with "must." In today's digital world, every town meeting should be broadcast and/or recorded for residents to view and/or watch at a later time, in the spirit of complete transparency. (rec'd via crc@ridgefieldct.org)</p>	Christine More	Declined	<p>4.6.23 Ms. Christiansen moved, and Mr. Lansen seconded "a motion to decline" Motion carried 9-0. (1:02)</p> <p>4.6.23 (per approved minutes) Ms. Christiansen moved, and Mr. Lansen seconded a motion to decline to recommend the suggestion that meetings must be broadcast or recorded submitted by Ms. More. Motion carried 9-0.</p>

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Item #	Proposal/Suggestion	Proposer(s)	Disposition	Final Decision
A - 37	<p>Affordable Housing Committee</p> <p>4.6.23 The Commission recognized it previously voted on the suggestion to permanently disband the Affordable Housing Committee (A-29) and that motion will apply here.</p> <p>3.16.23 Suggestion: in reference to the Affordable Housing Committee, which currently reports to the Board of Selectman.</p> <p>There is no mention of the Affordable Housing Committee in the current Town Charter, and as a result, should be permanently disbanded.</p> <p>The formation of the committee was never subject to a town hearing, and its' committee members, including the Chairperson, were never elected by the town residents. As a result, this committee has been operating without specific defined guidelines that are available for the public.</p> <p>*For example, this committee used the Chairperson's personal email for all correspondence until a town email address was established in June 2022. All correspondence before that date has never been available to the public, as it is not subject to FOIA. (even though it should be) This lack of transparency should disqualify this committee from being considered an authentic town body.</p> <p>*Anyone who is charged with creating affordable housing in our town should have background and experience in urban and suburban development, rather than simply a passion for a particular cause.</p> <p>*The Affordable Housing Committee developed a plan, as was required by the state of CT, which was approved by the BOS by a slim 3-2 margin. Their charge is complete, and the task and responsibility of any further development in town should now be moved to the Planning and Zoning Commission.</p> <p>**Any and all further development, whether considered "affordable" or not, should be moved to the purview of Planning and Zoning Commission. (rec'd via crc@ridgefieldct.org)</p>	Christine More	Declined	<p>4.6.23 Mr. Cascella moved, and Mr. Schirm seconded a motion "to decline recommendations that the AHC be dissolved because it is not a Charter issue" (33:24). Motion carried 9-0.</p> <p>4.6.23 (per approved minutes) Mr. Cascella moved, and Mr. Schirm seconded a motion to decline to recommend the Affordable Housing Committee be dissolved since it is not a Charter issue. Motion carried 9-0.</p>

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A - 38	<p>Article IV: Elections and Elective Officers Sect. 4-6 Minority Representation</p> <p>4.6.23. As it relates to Minority representation, on 3.16.23, in relation to Tracker Item A-30, the Commission voted 7-1 to decline any modifications to Section 4-6 in it's entirety. The 3/16 recording reflects that Mr. Lordi moved, and Mr. Schirm seconded, to "decline to move forward with modifciations to Section 4-6" (1:30, 3/16). Motion carried 7-1 with Ms. Welton opposing. Initially the Commission believed this motion applied but ultimately chose to motion Ms. More's suggested change independently after further discussion.</p> <p>3.16.23 The maximum number of any such board or commission who may be members of the same political party shall be as specified in the following table (see table in Charter):</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="118 602 537 824"> <thead> <tr> <th>Total Membership</th> <th>Maximum One Party</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>3</td><td>2</td></tr> <tr><td>4</td><td>3</td></tr> <tr><td>5*</td><td>4*</td></tr> <tr><td>6</td><td>4</td></tr> <tr><td>7</td><td>5</td></tr> <tr><td>8</td><td>5</td></tr> <tr><td>9</td><td>6</td></tr> <tr><td>More than 9</td><td>2/3 of total membership</td></tr> </tbody> </table> <p>*However, in accordance with the General Statutes, the maximum number of members of a five-member Board of Selectmen who may be members of the same political party shall be three.</p> <p>Suggestion: When the Total Membership is 5, change the Maximum of One Party to 3. Remove the *4 and the *However, in accordance with the General Statutes" statement. When the Total Membership is 9, change the Maximum of One Party to 5, rather than 6.</p> <p>I suggest these changes in order to promote a more fair and balanced membership. (rec'd via crc@ridgefieldct.org)</p>	Total Membership	Maximum One Party	3	2	4	3	5*	4*	6	4	7	5	8	5	9	6	More than 9	2/3 of total membership	Christine More	Declined	<p>4.6.23 Mr. Lordi moved, and Mr. Schirm seconded a motion to "decline tomaking changes to Section 4-6" Motion carried 9-0. (4/6 1:15)</p> <p>4.6.23 (per approved minutes) Mr. Lordi moved, and Mr. Schirm seconded a motion to decline to recommend the suggested revision to Section 4-6 of the Charter submitted by Ms. More. Motion carried 9-0.</p>
Total Membership	Maximum One Party																					
3	2																					
4	3																					
5*	4*																					
6	4																					
7	5																					
8	5																					
9	6																					
More than 9	2/3 of total membership																					

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Item #	Proposal/Suggestion	Proposer(s)	Disposition	Final Decision
A-39	<p>Town Meetings</p> <p>4.6.23 Ms. Thompson is asking for a more efficient process for Town Meetings. Towns are constrained by State Statute as to how Town Meetings can be managed and this is not a Charter issue. From a procedural perspective, the Board of Selectman must wisely choose where to host Town Meetings. This might become an operational task if the Town decides to explore a Town Administrator role</p> <p>3.20.23 My concern is with the Town Meeting process. A long time Ridgefield resident, I regularly attended Town Meetings when I first moved here in the early 1990's. I did not find the meetings conducive to participatory democracy. When the topic was of interest to town residents, the auditorium was overcrowded, it was difficult to understand all that was being said, and the paper voting process was cumbersome and lengthy. Because the timing for the meeting is always in the evening and the venue is of limited capacity, it is difficult, if not impossible, for all of our town's residents to attend.</p> <p>Perhaps in the ensuing years the process has been streamlined and become more effective. I know longer try to attend. Given the constrictions imposed by the COVID pandemic and the advancement of technology, it seems to me that a more efficient and effective process is certainly possible and should be considered. (rec'd via crc@ridgefieldct.org)</p>	Margaret Thompson	Declined	<p>4.6.23 Mr. Larsen moved, and Mr. Cascella seconded to "decline making recommendations to the town meeting process that is not a Charter issue but an operational issue for the Board of Selectman". Motion carried 9-0 (4/6 18:30)</p> <p>4.6.23 (per approved minutes) Mr. Larsen moved, and Mr. Cascella seconded a motion to decline to recommend the suggestion submitted by Ms. Thompson on modification to the Town Meetings process since it is not a Charter issue. Motion carried 9-0.</p>
A - 40	<p>4.8 Election of the Board of Selectmen</p> <p>4.13.23 After discussion, the Commission believes this suggestion might be best considered during the Town Administrator research as multiple sections of the Charter would need to be amended to accomodate a Drop Down voting process and the Commission does not have enough time to fully research this suggestion. In the Commission's final report back to the BOS, a note will be made to research and form a recommendation on reinstituing the Drop Down voting process as part of any future plans to form a committee to investigate how a Town Admin can serve Ridgefield.</p> <p>3.20.23 Lets bring back the "Drop Down" - Years ago, the race for Selectman was far more exciting and uncertain than it is now due to the "drop down" rule. The Selectmen candidates ran against each AND, indirectly, against the other opponent, the First Selectman candidates. The loser to the first selectman race may not have garnered enough votes to become Ridgefield's' First Selectman, but they may have enough votes to beat one of the other candidates. For example, the 1st Selectman candidate received 400 votes. The rest of the slate looks as follows:</p> <p>(D)1st winner, 400 votes R. Runner up, 380 votes D Ms. Jones, 300 votes R Mr. Smith, 310 vote D Ms. Brown, 350 votes R Mr. White, 320 votes D Ms. Black,345 votes</p> <p>In a regular election, the winners would be : D 1st Selectman, D Brown, D Black, R White & R Smith.</p> <p>If the dropdown was used, it would change the outcome to: (D)1st Selectman, (R) Runner Up, (D)Brown, (D)Black & (R)White</p>	Hope Wise	Declined	<p>4.13.23 Mr. Rettger moved, and Mr. Zagorec seconded a motion" to decline but incorporate the suggestion about a Drop Down election process in the recommendation to the BOS regarding the form of town government". Motion carried 5-2. Mr. Schirm and Ms. Welton opposed. (4/13, 2:20)</p>

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	<p>(D) 1st Selectman, (R) Runner Up, (D) Brown, (D) Black & (R) White.</p> <p>This changes the complexion of the ballot and would force the under-ticket to work harder, as they have greater competition now. Instead of four candidates running for a sure slot, there IS no sure slot when the four candidates must run including the top of the ticket. The minority representation rules still exist, which adds another layer of uncertainty to the slate.</p> <p>More competition means more diversity of candidates, the potential for a greater range of appeal to voters and hopefully, a greater turnout of the public. (rec'd via crc@ridgefieldct.org)</p>			
A - 41	<p>Mandatory State-Approved Training</p> <p>4.13.26 After discussion, the Commission came to the same conclusion it had previously. Continuing education can be encouraged but someone is elected or appointed cannot be required to take classes; what is the recourse if they don't complete any ongoing training or continuing education classes?</p> <p>4.6.23 is this addressed under Town Clerk suggestion about mandatory training?</p> <p>3.27.23 Suggested Change: The Charter should be amended to require any person elected or appointed to a Commission or Board that requires specialized knowledge or that makes decisions that could be appealed to the Superior Court take mandatory state-approved education classes once elected (and before being seated), including continuing education annually for their entire term. (rec'd via crc@ridgefieldct.org)</p>	Robert Jewell	Declined	4.13.23 Mr. Lordi moved, and Mr. Cascella seconded a motion "to decline recommended changes to the Charter that would incorporate mandatory educational processes". Motion carried 7-0 (4/13, 2:23)
A - 42	<p>Misinformation</p> <p>4.13.23 This fringes on a Freedom of Speech issue. Elected or appointed officials can post as they wish on their personal social media accounts.</p> <p>3.27.23 Suggested Change: The Charter should be amended to prohibit elected or appointed officials from spreading misinformation, including on social media. "Misinformation" should be defined as "any information the official knows or should know is incorrect based on public information and includes misinformation by omission of important facts." The purpose is to provide a clear ethical standard about online behavior. (rec'd via crc@ridgefieldct.org)</p>	Robert Jewell	Declined	4.13.23 Mr. Lordi moved, and Mr. Rettger seconded a motion "to decline recommendations to the Charter that would incorporate restrictions on misinformation". Motion carried 7-0. (4/13, 2:27)
A - 43	<p>Disclosure of Membership</p> <p>4.13.23 This does not appear to be a Charter issue.</p> <p>3.27.23 Suggested Change: The Charter should be amended to require any group or "spokesman" for any group, when appearing at a public meeting of the Town of Ridgefield to disclose the name and address of its membership. This is the same requirement as we have for individuals who speak at public meetings. Without this requirement, an agency and those who appear before the agency lack the information necessary to determine whether there is an unethical or illegal conflict of interest between the organization and members of that board or committee. (rec'd via crc@ridgefieldct.org)</p>	Robert Jewell	Declined	4.13.23 Mr. Lordi moved, and Mr. Cascella seconded a motion to "decline to recommend the changes put forward as it is not a Charter issue". Motion carried 7-0. (4/13, 2:30)

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Item #	Proposal/Suggestion	Proposer(s)	Disposition	Final Decision
A - 44	<p>Legal Action between Boards</p> <p>4.13.23 This is addressed in the Charter in Section 9-15.</p> <p>3.27.23 Suggested Change: The Charter should be amended so that Boards and Commissions are required to cooperate with each other and prohibit legal action between them unless approved by the Board of Selectmen or, if the Board of Selectmen is a party, the Board of Finance. The brewing kerfuffle between the PZC and Selectmen over Inclusionary Zoning is a warning sign. (rec'd via crc@ridgefieldct.org)</p>	Robert Jewell	Declined	4.13.23 Mr. Lordi moved, and Mr. Cascella seconded a motion "to decline the proposed change as it is already covered by the existing Charter". Motion carried 7-0. (4/13, 2:33)
A - 45	<p>Violation of Applicable Law</p> <p>4.13.23 Adding language to the Charter that something illegal should not be acted upon is not going to prevent it from happening in the below scenario.</p> <p>3.27.23 Suggested Change: The Charter should be amended so that Boards and Commissions are prohibited from acting in any way they know or should know is in violation of applicable law, even as part of a lawful strategy. (rec'd via crc@ridgefieldct.org)</p>	Robert Jewell	Declined	4.13.23 Mr. Schirm moved, and Mr. Rettger seconded a motion "to decline this". Motion carried 7-0. (4/13, 2:34)
A - 46	<p>Board of Ethics</p> <p>4.16.23 Article XI does not specify penalties directly although the Board of Ethics, in the newly rewritten Standards of Conduct, can recommend appropriate penalties against the offending officials. Adding direct penalties to the Charter probably isn't appropriate. The Commission also believes this is not a direct Charter issue as defining penalties in the Charter is not allowed per the State Constitution.</p> <p>3.27.23 Suggested Change: The Charter should be amended so that the Board of Ethics has the power to remove elected officials for serious ethical violations or repeated ethical violations, including failure to satisfy the suggested continuing education standard above. (rec'd via crc@ridgefieldct.org)</p>	Robert Jewell	Declined	4.13.23 Mr. Cascella moved, and Mr. Schirm seconded a motion "to decline because we don't believe the State Constitution permits it". Motion carried 7-0. (4/13, 2:45)
A - 48	<p>Baseball Fields</p> <p>3.30.23 The Commission believes this is not a Charter issue.</p> <p>3.28.23 Suggested Change: I want to propose that park and recreation or maintenance or some other Town Department that is most appropriate maintain the bathrooms and facilities associated with the town baseball fields. I think it's appropriate to charge a fee to Ridgefield Baseball Association but the town should maintain and clean the facilities.</p> <p>I've been a baseball parent for many years and travel to other town baseball fields. They are generally well maintained and clean. The Ridgefield facilities are run down, dirty, often not work and generally look like no one cares. Given the amount of property taxes that we pay, I feel that having baseball field facilities (bathrooms, snack shack, dugouts) that are working, clean and presentable is a pretty basic request. (rec'd via crc@ridgefieldct.org)</p>	Melissa Adams	Declined	3.30.23 (per approved minutes) Mr. Lansen moved, and Mr. Schirm seconded a motion to decline to recommend changing the Town Charter to incorporate the maintenance of bathrooms and facilities associated with the town baseball fields, as suggested by Ms. Adams, since it is not a Charter issue. Motion carried 8-0. Mr. Rettger was absent.

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A - 49	<p>Fire Commission</p> <p>5.11.23 Fire Chief Meyers addressed the Charter Review Commission to provide his perspective on the current Fire Commission and the submitted proposal. In his opinion, there seems to be a trend to consolidate the services of the police, the fire department, and emergency medical services which in the future, in addition to training and possibly living together, may also mean a single commission. But in the Chief's opinion, at this point, adding a Fire Commission, separate and unique from the Board of Selectman who today act as the Fire Commission, adds no value and may have a negative affect on morale After declining the suggestion, the Commission confirmed Sections 9-10, 9-11, 5-1 all remain as-is as it relates to the Fire Commission</p> <p>5.4.23 Correspondence was received from the Ridgefield Fire Chief in response to Mr. Cascella sending him proposed language for an appointed Fire Commission. The Fire Chief would like the opportunity to speak with the Charter Revision Commission and will attend the 5.11.23 meeting. In light of this, further discussion on this topic was tabled.</p> <p>4.27.23 Mr. Cascella reviewed draft language to create an appointed Fire Commission. Additionally he also raised additional changes to the initial language he would like to make based on feedback sent to him from Commission members. The Commission agreed to discuss updated draft language at the next meeting. In the meantime, Mr. Cascella also agreed to share the draft language and secure feedback on his Fire Commission proposal from Fire Department leadership.</p> <p>4.20.23 Mr. Cascella reviewed the findings of his research on the status of fire commissions in other towns comparable to Ridgefield in size. Data from 14 surrounding towns show each town has a Fire Commission (or something similiarly called) ith half being appointed and the other half made up of Fire Department Leadership. None of the 14 towns have their Board of Selectman also act as their entire Fire Commission. After questions, Mr. Cascella offered to draft a more specific C73proposal for creating an appointed Fire Commission in the Charter, for review and possible consideration at the next meeting. The current Charter language in Sections 9-10 and 9-11 identify the BOS as the Fire Commission and appoint the Fire Marshall.</p> <p>4.13.23 Mr. Sexton, a 14-year Ridgefield Firefighter who recently resigned, spoke to the Commission about his suggested change to provide more voice to the Fire Department and eliminate the perceived conflict of interest in having the Board of Selectmen also act as the Fire Commission. Mr. Cascella volunteered to investigate how surrounding towns are managing their fire department, to research options for Ridgefield, and try to figure out why Ridgefield has a Police Commission but not a Fire Commission. As a note, at a previous meeting, Mr. Marconi made a comment about creating a joint Public Safety Commission in a few years.</p> <p>3.29.23 Submitted Change: I would like the charter revision committee to consider making the fire commission an elected position. The brave men and women of the Ridgefield Fire Department deserve a board who is dedicated to their mission and success. The current set up of the board of selectman operating as the fire commission is a blatant conflict of interest. The police get their own commission why not Ridgefield Bravest. As a former member of the Ridgefield Volunteer Fire Department, and a member of a nearby town fire department now, I can tell you how much the department needs this. (rec'd via crc@ridgefieldct.org)</p>	Patrick Sexton	Declined	<p>5.11.23 Mr. Cascella moved, and Mr. Lansen seconded a motion to "decline the referral to appoint an independent Fire Commission" (5/11, 18:45).</p> <p>5.11.23 (per unapproved minutes) Mr. Cascella moved, and Mr. Lansen seconded a motion to decline to recommend the proposal to establish a Fire Commission. Motion carried 9-0</p>

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Affordable Housing	<p>4.13 The Commission reviewed and discussed the suggested languages submitted by Mr. Rettger including a slight wording change (in blue font) suggested by Mr. Goldenberg who provided feedback after Mr. Rettger shared the detail with him.</p> <p>4.12.23 From Mr. Rettger: <i>My suggested language is shown below. I have developed this from the original BOS charge document, but have also looked to offer wording consistent in tone and length/specificity with other similar-role committees already enumerated, such as the Commission on Accessibility and the Commission on Aging.</i> <i>Section 5-xx Affordable Housing Committee</i> <i>The Affordable Housing Committee shall be composed of nine members, each serving three-year terms ending April 1. Three members shall be appointed each year, subject to a transition period in which three members each are appointed to initial terms of one, two, and three years, respectively.</i></p> <p><i>The Affordable Housing Committee shall study the needs for and the availability of affordable housing in Ridgefield, build community awareness of the issue, and recommend policies, and programs, and initiatives that promote the availability of affordable housing to the Board of Selectmen and other boards. The Committee shall have such additional powers and duties as may be established in the General Statutes and applicable ordinances.</i></p> <p>4.6.23 Mr. Rettger offered to create possible draft Charter language for the Commission to react to</p> <p>3.23.23 Mr. Dave Goldenberg was invited to speak before the CRC. Per Ms. Mucchetti, " <i>The referrals have been almost uniform in their language. The recommendation is the Affordable Housing Committee that currently reports to the Board of Selectman, appointed by the Board of Selection, and the recommendation is the line of reporting should now go to Planning & Zoning</i>" (20:27)</p>	Dave Goldenberg	Declined	<p>4.13.23 Mr. Rettger moved, and Mr. Schirm seconded a motion "to move forward with recommending that the Affordable Housing Commission be enumerated in the Charter with the language as drafted and presented this evening" Motion failed 3-4. Ms. Mucchetti, Mr. Schirm, and Mr. Rettger agreed. Ms. Welton, Mr. Lordi, Mr. Zagorec, and Mr. Cascella opposed (4/13, 33:39)</p>
A-51	<p>In addressing the P&Z question, Mr. Goldenberg states, "<i>The second proposal, that oversight of the committee be moved from the BoS to the Planning and Zoning Commission (PZC), may serve to advance the work of the AHC and deserves serious consideration, for the following reasons (23:00):</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>The PZC oversees matters of land use and therefore shares the AHC's area of concern. It would be a natural home for the AHC.</i> <i>Currently, the AHC must seek approval from the BoS before engaging in activities with the PZC. This would eliminate that step and thus streamline the process. Further, the PZC</i> 			

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	<p><i>is less susceptible to broader politics.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Under the PZC, we could take advantage of their existing staff resources when they are made available to us. And we could serve as a resource to them, providing, for example, support in reviewing affordable housing applications and assisting with compliance. • Most importantly, incorporating the AHC into Section 5 of the Charter would ensure that the AHC continues in perpetuity its work to create housing opportunities—and would end the calls for dissolution from those determined to undermine the committee's work. <p>Last night, at our monthly affordable housing meeting, the Affordable Housing Committee voted unanimously, 9-0, to support the concept of moving oversight of the Affordable Housing Committee to the PZC, pending further discussion and details" (25:34).</p> <p>Further Ms. Mucchetti raised a question about reporting as per Town Counsel from early 2000s that needs to be considered. Should a BOS committee (i.e. AHC) only be an advisor to P&Z rather than have direct line of reporting.</p> <p>Question from Ms. Mucchetti, (47:56) "Any idea why its (the AHC) is not enumerated in the Charter?" Answer from Mr. Goldenberg, " Yeah, back in 2019, your predecessors received a referral from me to include us in the Charter as a Commission and they said no. We are not in the Charter as a Commission or a Committee.....So even if you do not change the line of reporting, it would be, I believe, important to include the AHC in the Charter under Section 5" (49:25)</p> <p>(53:36): During wrap up comments, Mr. Goldenberg stated, "The only other part I wanted to make was about making sure that we are, in one form or another, in the Charter to ensure the Town can still avail itself of the benefits of our Committee.</p>			
A-52	<p>Term limits on Committees or Commissions</p> <p>4.13.23 After discussion, the Commission believes implementing term limits might negatively impact Board work as additional volunteers may not step up to serve.</p> <p>4.6.23 A note from Ms. Mazzola: <i>After reviewing the current Charter, I am requesting the following changes be considered with respect to Commissions and Committees:</i></p> <p>1) <i>Term limits should be instituted in all commissions and committees. Chairperson must rotate every 2 years or length of term.</i></p> <p><i>Reasoning: Rotating the head of a commission or committee will ensure that the focus is on the work and growth of the group and not of the chair.</i> (rec'd via crc@ridgefieldct.org)</p>	Lori Mazzola	Declined	4.13.23 Mr. Lordi moved, and Mr. Cascella seconded a motion "to decline the recommendation" Motion carried 7-0. (4/13, 2:48)

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A-55	<p>Term limits on Committees or Commissions appointed by the BOS</p> <p>4.13.23 This recommendation is reflective of a previous Commission conversation although expands it a bit to limit the life of the Board, Committee, or Commission. Consensus is this might be too restrictive.</p> <p>4.3.23 Letter from Ms. Noyes: <i>This is a continuation of my previous letter dated March 4, 2023. I have continued going through the Town Charter Section by Section noting changes whether they are simple wording suggestions or more significant organization or policy suggestions. However, given the waning timeframe for residents to make suggestions, I am going to focus on my top line issues without necessarily referencing the applicable Town Charter Section.</i></p> <p><i>Under the Charter the BOS has the authority to appoint advisory Committees, Commissions or Boards. Given the fast past of change with matters such as climate, technology, or new State or Federal mandates, the use of an advisory panel makes sense to help the BOS govern and make decisions as informed as possible.</i></p> <p><i>The BOS should not use the appointment of such a panel to circumvent creation of a permanent Committee, Commission, or Board by vote in Town Meeting. I suggest:</i></p> <p><i>1). Beyond the requirement for reappointment concurrent with BOS elections, each BOS appointed Committee, Commission or Board should be given a mission statement that includes defining when or how the group's mission is complete and that it should be dissolved.</i></p> <p><i>2). Separate from a mission statement, I suggest term limits of these BOS appointed groups of 8 years or effectively no more than two BOS elections.</i></p> <p><i>3). After 8 years, in order for a BOS appointed Committee, Commission, or Board to continue in an advisory capacity, a different mission statement must be written and new members appointed (which may include members of the previous group). Over time it seems too easy to move from an advisory group to an advocacy group or perhaps over extend its reach without being given an updated mission statement from BOS. (rec'd via crc@ridgefieldct.org)</i></p>	Lynne B. Noyes	Declined	4.13.23 Mr. Cascella moved, and Mr. Schirm seconded a motion "to decline further consideration" Motion carried 7-0. (4/17, 1:58)
A-56	<p>Mission Statements</p> <p>4.13.23 Incorporating a Mission Statement into a Charter is not be needed as descriptions for every BCC are in the Charter and this would be an additional unneeded obligation.</p> <p>4.3.23 Letter from Ms. Noyes: <i>This is a continuation of my previous letter dated March 4, 2023. I have continued going through the Town Charter Section by Section noting changes whether they are simple wording suggestions or more significant organization or policy suggestions. However, given the waning timeframe for residents to make suggestions, I am going to focus on my top line issues without necessarily referencing the applicable Town Charter Section.</i></p> <p><i>I recommend a specific definition of what must be included in any Mission Statement and to the extent possible it should include measurable accomplishments. (rec'd via crc@ridgefieldct.org)</i></p>	Lynne B. Noyes	Declined	4.13.23 Mr. Lordi moved, and Mr. Cascella seconded a motion "to decline to incorporate Mission Statement obligations in the Charter". Motion carried 7-0. (4/13, 2:02)

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A-57	<p>Informations Systems Director</p> <p>4.13.23 This suggestion is unnecessary as it already exists and the Commission will be moving forward with recommendation to create an IT Committee</p> <p>4.3.23 Letter from Ms. Noyes: <i>This is a continuation of my previous letter dated March 4, 2023. I have continued going through the Town Charter Section by Section noting changes whether they are simple wording suggestions or more significant organization or policy suggestions. However, given the waning timeframe for residents to make suggestions, I am going to focus on my top line issues without necessarily referencing the applicable Town Charter Section.</i></p> <p><i>I recommend the town create an Information Systems Director, either elected or appointed by vote at Town Meeting. Critical decisions on internet strategies for the Town of Ridgefield cannot be left in a group which has another primary mission. (rec'd via crc@ridgefieldct.org)</i></p>	Lynne B. Noyes	Declined	4.13.23 Mr. Rettger moved, and Mr. Cascella seconded a motion "to decline on the basis as unnecessary as it already exists and we are addressing the Committee" Motion carried 7-0. (4/13, 2:02)
A-59	<p>How to organize the placement of people who need affordable housing and the development of more affordable housing based on end user need</p> <p>4.13.23 Per Ms. Mucchetti, this letter was forwarded to Mr. Marconi. This does not appear to be a Charter issue.</p> <p>4.3.23 Letter from Ms. Noyes: <i>This is a continuation of my previous letter dated March 4, 2023. I have continued going through the Town Charter Section by Section noting changes whether they are simple wording suggestions or more significant organization or policy suggestions. However, given the waning timeframe for residents to make suggestions, I am going to focus on my top line issues without necessarily referencing the applicable Town Charter Section.</i></p> <p><i>Many referrals have already been made and much discussion has already been done by the CRC about how the Affordable Housing Committee(AHC) should be organized and what its mission should be. I suggest a different approach. The discussion below probably encompasses several different referrals to the CRC. I tried to separate them out.</i></p> <p><i>In the development of the 2022 Ridgefield Affordable Housing Plan submitted to the State a lot of data was collected and surveys conducted. Further continuously updated information needs to come directly from the people who need affordable housing. The people who have direct unfiltered access to such information are probably the Housing Authority. I realize the Housing Authority may currently have a "full plate" and that was probably part of the reasoning why BOS recently reappointed a separate Affordable Housing Committee.</i></p> <p><i>I recommend staffing and/or funding the Housing Authority to find and recommend development of affordable housing based initially on the needs of current waiting lists for such housing. There are many untapped sources of more affordable housing, one example being going back to expiring 8-30g units and providing incentives to continue those units as affordable.</i></p> <p><i>Additionally and most importantly Ridgefield needs something similar to Greenwich Communities which is an active, seemingly very focused affordable housing group as part of their housing authority. Getting people into affordable housing is the role of the Housing Authority. Land use is the role of Planning and Zoning(P&Z). A group similar to Greenwich Communities would make recommendations to P&Z for the development of affordable housing based on actual need as well as complying with State mandates. Affordable housing should be developed by people who understand the need. Greenwich Communities also prioritizes housing for municipal workers, teachers, and others with similar jobs. That is</i></p>	Lynne B. Noyes	Declined	4.13.23 Mr. Rettger moved, and Mr. Schirm seconded a motion "to decline this on the basis of it not being a Charter issue" Motion carried 7-0. (4/13, 2:05)

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	<p><i>should be developed by people who understand the need. Greenwich Communities also prioritizes housing for municipal workers, teachers, and others with similar jobs. That is what Ridgefield needs. If we provided access to affordable housing for these essential workers we would make quick strides toward State requirements.</i></p> <p><i>I recommend the creation and funding of a group with a similar mission as Greenwich Communities within the Housing Authority. To me this would be a bold and sincere step towards creating affordable housing. Instead today our approach seems to attach affordable units to development almost as an afterthought. Funding such a group needs further thought, but many suggestions have already been made. Perhaps BOS could redefine a short term assignment to the AHC with the mission of finding funding from sources other than residential taxes.</i></p> <p><i>The potential "threats" of impending State proposals, some of which are already out of committee, must be considered in accurate detail, not glossed over lightly. It is time Ridgefield treats affordable housing with boldness and sincerity.</i></p> <p><i>An AHC might be appointed every four years to update the Plan for the State, just as the CRC is appointed every four years to update the Town Charter working across all Town Commissions, Committees, and Boards. The CRC does not remain to enforce the Town Charter and similarly the AHC should not remain once the Plan has been updated. (rec'd via crc@ridgefieldct.org)</i></p>			
F - 1	<p>10.1 C Annual and Budget Meetings</p> <p>4.2.23 Per Mike Lordi: I withdraw the recommended change I proposed to Section 10.1 (c), original email below.</p> <p>3.30.23 Mike L thinks he will withdraw this and will send a letter stating the same as the Charter approved a motion to change 10.1 C as oart if Tracjer L-3, a change to the same language as submitted by the Board of Selectman</p> <p>3.14.23</p> <p>Suggested wording from Mike Lordi: The annual capital and operating budgets of the Board of Education and the Board of Selectmen, as recommended by the Board of Finance, shall be brought to the Annual Town and Budget Meeting for discussion and then sent to referendum. The Mmeeting shall have the power to decrease or delete any line item as a whole, without regard to any specific item, the Board of Education, and the Board of Selectmen's budgets. but it The Meeting may not increase or add to any line item or establish any additional line item of either budget.</p> <p>3.9.23: <i>Updated Comment:</i> Per Dave Ulmer, the Board of Flnance is comfortable with this recommendation.</p> <p>2.20.23 <i>Original Comment:</i> Revise Section 10.1 (c): The Annual Town and Budget meeting shall have the power to decrease the operating budgets of the Board of Education and the Board of Selectman as a whole and shall not address specific items.</p> <p>The current language allows the meeting to decrease or delete any line item.</p> <p>The budgets submitted by the BOE and BOS have been developed over many months with considerable input and analysis. Line-item reductions may have unintended consequences, including reducing or eliminating funding for State mandated programs. (rec'd via crc@ridgefieldct.org)</p>	Mike Lordi	Withdrawn	Withdrawn

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F - 2	<p>Annual Budget</p> <p>3.16.23 Further Commission Discussion</p> <p>3.9.23 <i>Updated Comment:</i> Mike L will investigate further how other towns manage the cycle and process of a 3-vote option.</p> <p>3.1.23 Currently the Charter requires a vote on the annual budget. If the vote is No the budget can only be reduced. Brookfield does not have this limitation. Their charter allows people to vote Yes or No on the budget but allows No voters to indicate if the budget is too high or too low. I believe our charter should do the same. (rec'd via crc@ridgefieldct.org)</p>	Daniel Wehking	Declined	3.16.23 Mr. Cascella moved, and Ms. Welton seconded a motion to decline to recommend Mr. Wehking's change to Section 10.1 (d) of the Charter regarding the annual budget referendum. Motion carried 8-0. (47:13)
F - 3	<p>Section 10-1 Budget.</p> <p>4.6.23 The Commission doesn't believe this is required for the Charter.</p> <p>3.3.23 (a) Preparation of the budget for the coming fiscal year. [(17)]</p> <p>Suggested Change: Add: NO BOARD, COMMISSION OR COMMITTEE SHALL HAVE THE POWER TO IMPOSE ANY EXACTION, PENALTY, FEE OR OTHER FORM OF IMPOSITION OR DUTY TO PAY ON ANY ONE EXCEPT AS MAY BE APPROVED AT THE TOWN MEETING OR OTHERWISE AS MAY BE PERMITTED UNDER THIS CHARTER BY THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN, AND NO OTHER. (rec'd via crc@ridgefieldct.org)</p>	John Tartaglia	Declined	<p>4.6.23 Mr. Lordi moved, and Mr. Cascella seconded "a motion to decline" Motion carried 9-0. (4/6, 1:55)</p> <p>4.6.23 (per approved minutes) Mr. Lordi moved, and Mr. Cascella seconded a motion to decline to recommend the suggested revision to Section 10.1 of the Charter submitted by Mr. Tartaglia. Motion carried 9-0.</p>

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Item #	Proposal/Suggestion	Proposer(s)	Disposition	Final Decision
G - 1	<p>Electronic Communication</p> <p>5.3.23 A note with regard to this suggested update. This idea has been captured indirectly in the Guideline updates identified as part of the Accepted Proposal Summary, specifically Technical Update #11.</p> <p>4.20.23 The Commission agreed to changes to Section VI incorporating feedback as part of Tracker Item I-54. The Charter will state: All boards and board members shall execute their powers and duties in a manner consistent with the "Guidelines for Boards, Committees and Commissions" adopted by the Board of Selectmen on December 7, 2022, and as may have been amended subsequently. This allows for any specific proposals related to electronic communication to be managed through the Guidelines. .</p> <p>4.13.23 After discussion, consensus is the below is not a Charter issue but instead ties to the Guideline book and should be incorporated there.</p> <p>3.9.23 The Committee would like to see what the Board of Selectman recommends, if anything, before further exploring this proposal.</p> <p>2.10.23 Proposed Charter Addition</p> <p>All Town of Ridgefield employees, elected officials, volunteers, and temporary workers shall conduct all electronic communication using a Town-provided email account with appropriate multifactor security measures. This fulfills the Town of Ridgefield's compliancy with cybersecurity insurance, Federal encryption and State/Federal standards.</p> <p>Reasoning</p> <p>This will protect the aforementioned personnel's personal email and electronic devices from FOIA requests, guarantee full transparency, fulfill record retention requirements, ensure cybersecurity protections are enabled and updated, and FIPS/other encryption. (rev'd via crc@ridgefieldct.org)</p>	Andrew Neblett	Declined	<p>4.13.23 Mr. Lordi moved, and Mr. Cascella seconded a motion "to decline as it is not a Charter issue" Motion carried 7-0. (4/13, 2:55)</p> <p>4.13.23 (per approved minutes) Mr. Lordi moved, and Mr. Cascella seconded a motion to decline to consider the recommendation that the Charter be amended to require all Town of Ridgefield employees, elected officials, volunteers, and temporary workers shall conduct all electronic communication using a Town-provided email account with appropriate multifactor security measures, as submitted by Mr. Neblett since this not a Charter issue. Motion carried 7-0.</p>
H - 1	<p>Insurance and Risk Management Committee</p> <p>3.30.23 After discussion, the Commission feels this is an unnecessary change to the Charter. Many commissions, committees, and boards are not enumerated in the Charter.</p> <p>2.24.23: From Insurance and Risk Management Committee:</p> <p>I note that the Charter does not include any overview of the existing committees, including the Insurance and Risk Management Committee that I am involved with. Is this done purposefully or should there be an overview of those committees and their responsibilities that should also be included? If the committees provide a value to the town, explaining what they do could be beneficial to the reader.(rec'd via crc@ridgefieldct.org)</p>	Dan O'Brien	Declined	<p>3.30.23 Mr. Lordi moved, and Mr. Lansen seconded a motion to "decline the suggestion to enumerate.... as it is an unnecessary change" Motion carried 8-0. Mr. Rettger was absent. (3.30.23 1:22:23)</p> <p>3.30.23 (per approved minutes) Mr. Lordi moved, and Mr. Lansen seconded a motion to decline to recommend the suggestion submitted by Mr. O'Brien that committees that are permanent in nature be enumerated in the Charter. Motion carried 8-0. Mr. Rettger was absent.</p>

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Item #	Proposal/Suggestion	Proposer(s)	Disposition	Final Decision
I - 4	<p>Sec 4-17:</p> <p>4.18.23 From Mike R: <i>I wish to withdraw my suggestion to delete Sec 4-17 of the current Charter (Tracker item I-4). From the minutes and correspondence it appears that I had not communicated this change previously</i></p> <p>3.1.23 Final Recommendation:</p> <p>[2]Delete the ability for an elected board/commission not enumerated in the Charter to be created by ordinance/town meeting. Section 4-17. Additional elective boards and commissions. [(7)] By ordinance submitted to and approved by the Town Meeting, additional elective boards may be established, as provided for in the General Statutes. Such ordinance shall specify the board's powers and duties, enabling statute, terms of office, and method of filling vacancies.</p> <p>2.11.23 Initial Comment:</p> <p>5)Sec 4-17 Authorizes the creation of additional elective boards not specifically defined by the Charter. This authorization appears to be open-ended as to time/duration. Should we consider language that would somehow require such new elective boards to be presented to voters at the next Charter revision? Two options would seem to be available:</p> <p>a.Add language to Sec 4-17: Any such board established pursuant to this section which is not recommended for inclusion in the Charter in the next Charter revision process and approved by the voters shall sunset and cease to continue in operation upon completion of that next Charter revision cycle</p> <p>b.Delete Sec 4-17 in its entirety, with the implicit result that additional elective Boards could only arise through the Charter revision process. (Note that under this option, the Town could still establish appointive boards/committees for urgent matter meriting such attention between Charter revision cycles, under Sec 5-16.)</p>	Mike Rettger	Withdrawn	Withdrawn
I - 7	<p>Terms of Office</p> <p>3.1.23 This comment mirrors Item #8 submitted by the Town Clerk and will be tracked there.</p> <p>2.11.23 Initial Comment:</p> <p>Handling the term of office for board/committee chairs and other officers seems inconsistent – in some cases the Charter specifies that these are set annually, in others it is unclear if they need to be re-established annually or if the positions continue indefinitely until someone leaves or steps down. Sec 6-1 already provides for certain organization aspects. Should this be amended to specify a requirement that board/committee officers be chosen annually, as a clarification?</p>	Mike Rettger	Withdrawn	Withdrawn
I - 11	<p>Statutory Training and Certification</p> <p>2.23.23 After discussion among the Commission, the existing wording works</p> <p>6)Minor technical amendments. In addition to these broader suggestions above, there are some potential wording changes that might aid clarity in the Charter, as follows:</p> <p>d.Sec 4-16 mentions the requirement that members of the Inland Wetlands Board meet statutory requirements for subject-matter training in that area. I think there are similar statutory requirements for members of P&Z and ZBA. Should those sections also have similar training/certification language if so?</p>	Mike Rettger	Withdrawn	Withdrawn

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I - 13	<p>Youth Commission</p> <p>2.23.23 Mike L will continue any further disuccsion on this topic within the Youth Commission and submit any changes.</p> <p>6)Minor technical amendments. In addition to these broader suggestions above, there are some potential wording changes that might aid clarity in the Charter, as follows:</p> <p>f.Sec 5-15: Youth members were added to the Youth Commission some time ago. Has that commission considered amending the Charter to require a minimum membership of adults vs minors (e.g., that at least 1/3 of the members be minors), to assure adequate representation of each group?</p>	Mike Rettger	Withdrawn	Withdrawn
I - 14	<p>Political Party Representation</p> <p>2.23.23 After discussion among the Commission, the existing wording works</p> <p>6)Minor technical amendments. In addition to these broader suggestions above, there are some potential wording changes that might aid clarity in the Charter, as follows:</p> <p>g.Sec 7-1: The sentence in this section dealing with political party representation is redundant with Sec 4-6 and could be eliminated.</p>	Mike Rettger	Withdrawn	Withdrawn
I - 15	<p>Town Constables</p> <p>2.23.23 After discussion among the Commission, the existing wording works</p> <p>6)Minor technical amendments. In addition to these broader suggestions above, there are some potential wording changes that might aid clarity in the Charter, as follows:</p> <p>h.Sec 9-1: Does the Town have any constables, or is this a historical artifact?</p>	Mike Rettger	Withdrawn	Withdrawn
I - 16	<p>Section 4-10 Board of Education</p> <p>2.23.23 After discussion among the Commission, the existing wording works</p> <p>6)Minor technical amendments. In addition to these broader suggestions above, there are some potential wording changes that might aid clarity in the Charter, as follows:</p> <p>i.Operationally (and budget-wise), there is a minor inconsistency between Sec 4-10, which makes the BOE responsible for the maintenance and operation of “buildings... and other property used for school purposes”, and Sec 9-13, which gives the Director of Public Services responsibility for “maintenance of all ... Town buildings.” In practice, the Town currently budgets for and maintains the exterior and grounds of the schools, with the interior space being the responsibility (and budget) of the BOE.</p>	Mike Rettger	Withdrawn	Withdrawn

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I - 18	<p>Section 4-17</p> <p>4.20.23 Mr. Rettger confirmed his withdrawal of amendments regarding Sec 4-17 as the suggestion he raised at the Public Hearing was additionally drafted in his 'technical change' email and addressed as part of that correspondence. This can be withdrawn as it is a duplicate</p> <p>2.11.23 allows the Town Meeting to establish additional elective boards beyond what is enumerated in the Charter. Currently, there is no requirement to add these boards to the Charter. Mr. Rettger suggested that one way to address this issue is to amend Section 4-17 to add language that any such elected board created by a Town Meeting would need to be incorporated into the next Charter revision. The board would be dissolved if it was not incorporated in the revision.(rec'd via 2.11.23 Public Hearing)</p>	Mike Rettger	Withdrawn	Withdrawn
J - 4	<p>Section 4-4 Board of Admission of Electors</p> <p>3.9.23 <i>Updated Comments from Wendy:</i></p> <p>Regarding the certification requirements, I have been researching other town charters ([https://www.jud.ct.gov/lawlib/ordinances.htm CT Ordinances and Charters by Town - CT Judicial Branch Law Library Services]) and haven't found any that specify certification as a requirement for Town Clerks and Tax Collectors. Jane and I may be the only elected officials wanting it! But just because it doesn't exist yet doesn't mean it shouldn't. I will leave that decision up to the CRC.</p> <p>2.8.23 <i>Initial Comment:</i> The Charter states, "The Town Clerk and the registrars of voters shall constitute the board of admission of electors in accordance with the provisions of Section 9-15a of the General Statutes".</p> <p>Feedback: Include certification requirements of Town Clerk and Tax Collector within the first term (Town Clerk shall achieve certification of the CT Town Clerk Association as soon as possible upon taking office; Tax Collector shall achieve certification from CT Tax Collector Association as soon as possible upon taking office (rec'd via crc@ridgfieldct.org)</p>	Wendy Gannon Lionetti	Declined	3/9/23: Mr. Lordi moved, and Mr. Lansen seconded a motion to decline to recommend revising Section 4-4 of the Charter. Motion carried 9-0.
J - 7	<p>Section 9-7 Constables</p> <p>Charter allows <u>up to</u> seven and the BOS can decide which ones</p> <p>Section 9-7 Constables. Per Charter: "may appoint and may remove or replace the Constables, whose total number shall not exceed seven."</p> <p>Feedback: >>Reduce total number to four?>>see 12/11/19 BOS meeting minute (rec'd via crc@ridgfieldct.org)</p>	Wendy Gannon Lionetti	Withdrawn	Charter allows up to seven and the BOS can decide which ones

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K -2	<p>5.14 Water Pollution Control Authority</p> <p>3.30.23 After discussion, the Charter Revision Commission agreed that because there are no other commissions or committees that have a permanent BOS member as a voting member that they would not put an additional obligation on the Board of Selectman for the WPCA</p> <p>3.16.23 Bob and Rebecca will follow up with the BOS and ask further as to the need, desire, or want to be a voting member of the Water Pollution Control.</p> <p>3.3.23 In addition, now many years ago, the Board of Selectman (BOS) determined that it would be helpful to appoint one of their members to the WPCA as a voting member. This has not been formalized in the regulations outlining the WPCA's makeup. The purpose of such appointment has been to create a robust means of communication between the BOS and the WPCA, maintaining familiarity between both the WPCA and the BOS with matters pertaining to the Town's wastewater system and its operation, maintenance, and capital projects.</p> <p>While the WPCA did not request such change, the Charter Revision Committee could review if it should be formalized.</p>	Amy Siebert	Declined	<p>3.30.23 Mr. Lordi moved, and Ms. Cascella seconded a motion "to decline the recommended change to Section 5.14 of the Charter" Motion carried 8-0. Mr. Rettger was absent. (3.30.23 1:29:55)</p> <p>3.30.23 (per approved minutes) Mr. Lordi moved, and Mr. Cascella seconded a motion to decline to recommend changing Section 5.14 of the Charter to have a member of the Board of Selectman be a voting member of the Water Pollution Control Authority. Motion carried 8-0. Mr. Rettger was absent.</p>
L - 1a	<p>Article III Section 3-5 Petitioned Town Meetings</p> <p>3.30.23 After conversation about the Board of Selectmen's request to change certain thresholds as it relates to petitioned Town Meetings, the Commission agreed to address each of the three suggestions independently.</p> <p>This tracker item (L -1a) will address the first of three items suggested by the Board of Selectman, "a. Increase the verified signatures from 2%-4% (non-appropriations)".</p> <p>3.16.23 The Board of Selectmen discussed and put forth the below Charter Revision referrals at their March 15, 2023 BOS meeting.</p> <p>a. Increase the verified signatures from 2%-4% (non-appropriations) b. Up to \$250K from 2%-4% c. Over \$250K from 5%-7%</p>	Board of Selectman	Declined	<p>3.30.23 Mr. Lordi moved, and Mr. Schirm seconded a motion to decline the Board of Selectman's change to increase the verified signatures from 2% to 4% for matters not involving expenditures, per Article III, Section 3-5 (c). Motion carried 5-3 with Ms. Christiansen, Mr. Larsen, and Mr. Zagorec opposing. Mr. Rettger was absent.</p>
L - 1b	<p>Article III Section 3-5 Petitioned Town Meetings</p> <p>3.30.23 After conversation about the Board of Selectmen's request to change certain thresholds as it relates to petitioned Town Meetings, the Commission agreed to address each of the three suggestions independently.</p> <p>This tracker item (L -1b) will address the second of three items suggested by the Board of Selectman, "b. Up to \$250K from 2% - 4%"</p> <p>3.16.23 The Board of Selectmen discussed and put forth the below Charter Revision referrals at their March 15, 2023 BOS meeting.</p> <p>a. Increase the verified signatures from 2%-4% (non-appropriations) b. Up to \$250K from 2%-4% c. Over \$250K from 5%-7%</p>	Board of Selectman	Declined	<p>3.30.23 (per approved minutes) Mr. Schrim moved, and Mr. Cascella seconded a motion to decline the Board of Selectman's change to increase the verified signatures from 2% to 4% for expenditures up to \$250K, as per Article III, Section 3-5 of the Town Charter. Motion carried 5-3 with Ms. Christiansen, Mr. Larsen, and Mr. Zagorec opposing. Mr. Rettger was absent.</p>

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L - 4	<p>Article XIII Section 12-5</p> <p>3.30.23 After conversation, the Commission believes the Charter should be reviewed every 4 years (as it is today) but that language should be added to the Charter allowing the Board of Selectmen the opportunity to convene a Charter Revision Commission as needed at any time before the 4 year period.</p> <p>Extending revision timing past the 4 years, could result in Charter Revision public votes being too small as off year voter turn out is low. Per Town Counsel (rec'd 3.29.23):</p> <p><i>The manner in which a Charter is amended is set forth in Conn. Gen. Stat. Sec. 7-191. Subsection (f) of that statute reads as follows: "The proposed charter, charter amendments or home rule ordinance amendments shall be prepared for the ballot by the appointing authority and may be submitted in the form of one or several questions; and, if approved by a majority of the electors of the municipality voting thereon at a regular election or if approved by a majority which number equals at least fifteen per cent of the electors of the municipality as determined by the last-completed active registry list of such municipality at a special election, such proposed charter, charter amendments or home rule ordinance amendments shall become effective thirty days after such approval unless an effective date or dates are specified therein, in which event the date or dates specified shall prevail." (Emphasis added.)</i></p> <p><i>Therefore, at a regular election, such as the November election, a majority vote is required to approve a charter change. However, at a special election, such as adding the Charter questions to a budget referendum ballot, the majority must consist of at least 15% of the electorate. Given voter turnout in budget referenda, it is unlikely the turnout would be sufficient to approve any charter changes, even if a majority of the voters at the referenda approved of the change.</i></p> <p><i>For this reason, I would recommend that the Charter questions appear on the November ballot.</i></p> <p>Article XIII Section 12-5 Amendment of this Charter</p> <p>The Board of Selectmen discussed and put forth the below Charter Revision referrals at their March 15, 2023 BOS meeting.</p> <p>Proposing to extend the Charter Revision from the current (4) years to (5) years.</p> <p>a. In addition, to insert language recognizing that the BOS is authorized by State Statute to call a Charter Revision Commission to be established at any time.</p>	Board of Selectman	Declined	3.30.23 (per approved minutes) Mr. Cascella moved, and Mr. Zagorec seconded a motion to decline to recommend extending the Charter Revision from the current four years to five years and recommended changing the Town Charter to recognize that State Statute authorizes the Board of Selectman to establish a Charter Revision Commission at any time. Motion carried 8-0. Mr. Rettger was absent
L - 5	<p>Town Manager/Administrator</p> <p>3.30.23 After discussion the Commission feels this might be a good idea to explore but at the moment, it is not a Charter issue. The Commission believes the next step is for an exploratory discovery committee to be convened by the Board of Selectmen.</p> <p>3.16.23 The Board of Selectmen discussed and put forth the below Charter Revision referrals at their March 15, 2023 BOS meeting.</p> <p>Begin research and possible recommendation to create a position of Town Manager/Administrator.</p>	Board of Selectman	Declined	3.30.23 (per approved minutes) Mr. Cascella moved, and Mr. Lansen seconded a motion to decline to review the creation of the Town Manager/Administrator position. Motion carried 9-0.