

Town of Ridgefield Charter Revision Commission (CRC)

Meeting Minutes

July 20, 2023, at 6:30 p.m.

Town Hall Annex Conference Room #2

These minutes are a general summary of the meeting and are not intended to be a verbatim transcription. A video of the meeting is available on the Town's website.

Members Present: Bob Cascella, Rebecca Mucchetti, Derick Schirm, Tom Lansen, Mike Lordi, Todd Zagorec (by phone), Michael Rettger (by phone), Laurie Christiansen (by phone),

Member Absent: Kim Welton

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Ms. Mucchetti at 6:30 p.m.

2. Public Comment

No public comments.

3. Receipt and Discussion of Draft Report Recommendations to the CRC from the Board of Selectmen dated July 14, 2023

The Board of Selectmen (BOS) submitted recommendations derived from their July 12, 2023 meetings. The CRC has to submit a final report to the BOS by August 12, 2023

The recommendations from the BOS reference the Summary of Accepted Proposals from the CRC Draft Reported to the BOS Dated May 20, 2023. Copy attached.

The BOS had no revisions to References 1 through 8.

Reference 9: Mr. Buchsbaum (Town Counsel) recommended adding the language "when the Town Clerk notifies the Board of Selectmen" to sections 4-5 and 4-7 to clarify when the clock starts for the allotted time that the Board of Selectmen has to fill the vacancy. The BOS agreed with Mr. Buchsbaum's suggestion. The CRC will discuss this recommendation with the BOS at the July 27, 2023, joint meeting.

The BOS had no revision to Reference 10. The CRC would like to discuss with the BOS the need to reference the Connecticut Freedom of Information Act. This item will be added to the July 27, 2023, joint meeting agenda.

Reference 11: Mr. Buchsbaum suggested deleting the word "also" from Section 10-2b. The BOS agreed with Mr. Buchsbaum's suggestion. The CRC will discuss Section 10-2b with the BOS at the July 27, 2023, joint meeting.

Reference 12: The BOS recommends keeping this (*the nepotism section*) as a policy, which already exists, but not adding it to the Charter. Mr. Buchsbaum suggested deleting "as defined in Section 1210(b) of the General Statutes" from section 11-2d. Mr. Buchsbaum commented that the CRC should keep the broader definition of confidentiality that is in the previous Charter. In Section 11-11, Mr. Buchsbaum suggested keeping the words "probable clause" in all areas where the CRC recommended deleting it. The BOS agreed to all of Mr. Buchsbaum's recommendations. The CRC will discuss these recommendations with the BOS at the July 27, 2023, joint meeting.

References 13-15: The BOS recommends changing "appointed" to "hired as a Town employee." and "by the first selectman" to "by the Board Selectmen." The CRC will discuss this recommendation with the BOS at the July 27, 2023, joint meeting.

The BOS had no revision to Reference 16.

Reference 17: The BOS recommends removing the addition of the Information Technology Commission to the Charter and instead creating a committee appointed by the Board of Selectmen. The CRC will discuss this recommendation with the BOS at the July 27, 2023, joint meeting.

Reference 18: The BOS recommends using Board of Selectmen/women and First Selectman/woman throughout the Charter. The CRC will discuss this recommendation with the BOS at the July 27, 2023, joint meeting.

Reference 19: Mr. Buchsbaum suggested adding the sentence "except as provided elsewhere in the charter, the Town and Budget Meeting shall have no authority to make changes to the annual capital and operating budgets of the Board of Selectmen and Board of Education". The BOS agreed to Mr. Buchsbaum's recommendation. The CRC will discuss this recommendation with the BOS at the July 27, 2023, joint meeting.

Reference 20: The BOS would like to discuss with the CRC the recommended changes to standardize references to boards, committees, commissions, and departments throughout the Charter. The item will be discussed at the July 27, 2023, joint meeting.

The BOS had no revision to References 21 through 23.

Reference 24: The BOS recommends changing the language from "opinions and advice" to "timely recommendations". The CRC agreed with the recommended change.

The BOS had no revision to References 25 through 30.

4. Discussion/Roll of Tracker during the final 30-day review period

The tracker will not be used this week or next week.

5. Communications

Ms. Christiansen said she expects the Ridgefield Press to write an article on the Charter revision soon.

6. Correspondence

None

7. Planning Future Calendars

Motion for the CRC to hold a joint meeting with BOS and Town Counsel Jason Buchsbaum on July 27, 2023, by Mr. Cascella, seconded by Mr. Schirm. Motion carries 8 to 0 in favor.

The CRC will also meet on August 3, 2023, and August 10, 2023.

8. Minutes – Review and Approval

Motion to approve the minutes of the May 20, 2023, Public Hearing by Mr. Cascella, seconded by Mr. Lansen. Motion carries 8 to 0 in favor.

Motion to approve as amended the minutes of the May 20, 2023, meeting by Mr. Cascella, seconded by Mr. Schirm. Motion carries 8 to 0 in favor.

9. Adjourn

Motion to adjourn at 7:22 p.m. by Mr. Lansen, seconded by Mr. Schirm. Motion carries 8 to 0 in favor.

Respectfully submitted,
Mike Lordi, Recording Secretary