

Town of Ridgefield Charter Revision Commission (CRC)

Public Hearing Minutes

May 20, 2023, at 9:30 am.

Town Hall Large Conference Room

400 Main Street, Ridgefield, Connecticut

These minutes are a general summary of the meeting and are not intended to be a verbatim transcription.

Members Present: Bob Cascella, Laurie Christansen, Mike Lordi, Rebecca Mucchetti, Michael Rettger, Derick Schirm, Kim Welton, and Tom Lansen

Member Absent: Todd Zagorec

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Rebecca Mucchetti at 9:30 am.

2. Public Hearing

Mr. Cascella and Ms. Mucchetti gave a brief overview of the Charter review process.

Andrea Beebe 378 Main Street

Ms. Beebe expressed appreciation for the work performed by the CRC. Ms. Beebe would like the CRC to add to the Charter the requirement that meetings of Boards, Commissions, and Committees be recorded.

Ms. Beebe noted that she presented the request submitted by the Commission on Aging.

Ms. Beebe asked the CRC to give background on the changes made to the ethics sections of the Charter. Mr. Rettger gave an overview of the changes made.

Lynne Noyes 43 Circle Drive East

Ms. Noyes expressed appreciation for the work performed by the CRC. Ms. Noyes would like the CRC to add to the Charter the requirement that meetings of Boards, Commissions, and Committees be recorded.

Bob Lavelle 38 Aspen Mill Road

Mr. Lavelle asked the CRC to give background on the recommendation that the Town Clerk, Tax Collector, and Treasure move from elected to appointed positions. Ms. Mucchetti gave the recent history of this proposal and why this CRC supported the proposal. Mr. Lavelle would support the change if there were term limits on the Board of Selectmen but expressed concerns with the change if term limits did not exist.

Linda Lavell 38 Aspen Mill Road

Ms. Lavell felt that the CRC should consider term limits for the Board of Selectmen. Ms. Mucchetti stated that the CRC declined to recommend term limits. Ms. Lavell felt that it should be one or the other; if we don't have term limits for the Board of Selectmen, we should keep the positions elected versus appointed.

Ms. Lavell expressed concern about changing the Town Meeting form of government.

Lori Mazzola 1 Circle Drive East

Ms. Mazzola stated that she was speaking for Ridgefield Residents for Smarter Development (RRSD). RRSD requests the CRC to add to the Charter the requirement that meetings of Boards, Commissions, and Committees be recorded.

Ms. Mazzola asks for the reasoning behind the CRC's decision to decline to change the reporting structure of the Affordable Housing Committee. CRC members discussed the reasons behind the decision.

Ms. Mazzola asked the CRC to give background on how grants are distributed. Mr. Rettger gave an overview of how grants are managed.

Michael Raduazzo 195 Peaceable Street

Mr. Raduazzo felt that since the Board of Selectmen would appoint the Town Clerk, Tax Collector, and Treasurer, their request to make the change was a conflict of interest. Mr. Raduazzo would like the CRC to reconsider this proposed change.

3. Adjourn

Motion to adjourn at 10:13 pm by Mr. Rettger, seconded by Mr. Cascella. Motion carries 8 to 0 in favor.