

Town of Ridgefield Board of Selectmen Special Meeting
October 30, 2017 | 6:30 PM | Town Hall Large Conference Room
400 MAIN STREET | RIDGEFIELD, CT 06877
APPROVED MEETING MINUTES

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

In attendance: R. Marconi, B. Hebert, M. Kozlark, B. Manners, S. Zemo

Agenda

2017-18 Charter Revision Commission Candidate Interviews

The meeting was called to order by R. Marconi at 6:30 PM.

David Cordisco

For several years, David served on the Board of Education and is currently the owner of a retail store specializing in phone repairs. David enjoys serving the community and feels that holding a seat on the Charter Revision Commission will further add to his community efforts. David feels that preserving our current form of town government is essential. David stated that he will recuse himself should any conflicts arise between the Board of Education and the Charter Revision Commission.

Lester Steinman

Lester has been a Ridgefield resident for 40 years and practiced law for a majority of his career. Although Lester has never previously served on a Town commission in Ridgefield, he has been instrumental in revising town charters as counsel for other municipalities in the state of New York. Lester has taken the time to review the revisions made to the Town Charter in 2014 to further familiarize himself with the document. Since stepping back from his law practice, Lester is now looking to devote his time to the community. Although Lester has no predisposition to our current form of government, he would like to strengthen the current ethics code. When asked about what type of commission should be assembled, Lester recommended utilizing between seven and nine individuals of which are skilled with working in a group setting and should be comprised of well-known and newer residents. Lester stated that in previous experience, the success of a Charter is typically mirrored by the Chairperson.

Bill Davidson

Bill previously served as First Selectman in Brookfield. When asked what he would change about the Town Charter, he stated that he'd like to see both the Police Commissioners and the Tax Collector be appointed positions (by the First Selectman) and not elected. Bill has been a resident of Ridgefield for approximately one year and appreciates the Town's community feel. Bill also expressed interest in working with Social Services to enhance the food pantry.

Chris Nolan

Chris has been a Ridgefield resident for 18 years, following her move from Ann Arbor, Michigan. She stated that she is going into this opportunity with no preconceived ideas or agenda for serving on the commission. She plans to utilize feedback from town meetings to pose potential charter revisions. Ultimately, Chris would like to revise the charter to be more clear and streamlined for Town residents.

Bruce Yuen

Bruce and his wife Caroline are thrilled to be Ridgefield residents and to have raised their children here. In addition to being a business owner in Town, Bruce also devotes his time to the baseball community. When asked about changes that may need to be made, Bruce felt that the Standards of Conduct (Section 11) require modification. Bruce will not bring any bias to the Commission and feels that his ability to work collaboratively in a group will serve the Commission well.

Joe Egan, Esq.

Joe previously served as a Judge of Probate, but recently retired. Joe, a resident of Ridgefield for 61 years, currently serves on the RVNA Board and works alongside Bruce Yuen for youth baseball. Joe has read the proposals from the last Charter Revision and would like to change both the Town Clerk and Tax Collector positions to be appointed and not elected. Joe stated that he has the unique ability to separate fact from emotion, which he believes will serve him well if tasked on the Commission. Joe can make himself available for the Commission; however he will be leaving for Florida in February which may impede some of the meetings.

Jan Rifkinson

Jan served on the previous Charter Revision Commission and participated in the BOE Budget Meetings. Jan appreciates the Town's form of government and wants to ensure that its preserved. Jan would ultimately like to simplify the charter, in an effort to make it more readable for residents. After reading the 2010 charter, he identified areas that he feels need to be eliminated or adjusted. Essentially, Jan feels that the charter ideally should not need to be interpreted by a lawyer. Jan feels that his strong listening skills, ability to work effectively in a group, and compromising nature will serve the commission well.

Interviews concluded at 8:10 pm.

B. Hebert moved and M. Kozlark seconded the motion to adjourn the BOS special meeting at 8:18 pm. Motion carried 5-0.

Respectfully submitted,
Shannon Freda