

Town of Ridgefield Charter Revision Commission (CRC)

Public Hearing Minutes

February 11, 2023, at 9:30 a.m.

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. A video of the meeting is available on the Town's website.

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

Members Absent: Laurie Christiansen, Todd Zagorec

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Rebecca Mucchetti at 9:30 a.m. Ms. Mucchetti explained the purpose of the public hearing and how the public hearing would be conducted, including the identification of speakers and sign-in procedure.

2. Public Hearing

Five speakers came forward to present public comment.

Rudy Marconi, 145 Main Street. Mr. Marconi's comments were made as a member of the public and not in his capacity as the First Selectman or member of the Board of Selectman.

Maureen Kozlark, 24 Oneill Court. Ms. Kozlark's comments were made as a member of the public and not in her capacity as a member of the Board of Selectman.

Joe Shapiro

Mike Rettger, 25 Fairview. Mr. Rettger's comments were made as a member of the public and not in his capacity as a member of the CRC.

Tom Lansen, 36 Pond Road. Mr. Lansen's comments were made as a member of the public and not in his capacity as a member of the CRC.

Mr. Marconi suggested that the CRC change the Director of Civil Preparedness to the Director of Emergency Management. Section 9-9 of the Charter.

Ms. Kozlark suggested that the CRC review Sections 3-6 of the Charter. She felt it might be beneficial to expand Legal Notice to include social media and other digital media to improve communications with the public.

Mr. Marconi suggested that the CRC may want to review if the Charter should provide that a person cannot be appointed to a position if that person already holds an elected or appointed position. Ms. Kozlark added that the CRC might want to review the eligibility of a person holding a State elected position to run or hold a Town elected position.

Mr. Marconi suggested that the CRC review the *Town of Ridgefield Information and Guidelines for Boards, Committees, and Commission*. Ms. Kozlark suggested that the CRC consider incorporating the Guideline, by reference, in Section 5 of the Charter.

Mr. Marconi highlighted that activities at the State level might impact the Charter.

Mr. Marconi suggests that the CRC may want to review whether the Charter should include a committee responsible for overseeing the Town's legal expenses.

Mr. Shapiro asked if there is a place for the public to view written submissions to the CRC. This item will be discussed at a future CRC meeting.

Mike Rettger stated that Section 4-17 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.

Mr. Lansen recommended that the CRC consider whether the Charter should include a board, commission, or committee that oversees the Town's information technology process.

3. Adjourn

Motion to adjourn at 11:00 a.m. by Mr. Cascella, seconded by Mr. Rettger. Motion carries 7 to 0 in favor.