

## **Town of Ridgefield Charter Revision Commission (CRC)**

### **Minutes**

**April 6, 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, Laurie Christiansen, Tom Lansen, Mike Lordi, Rebecca Mucchetti, Michael Rettger, Derick Schirm, Kim Welton, and Todd Zagorec

#### **a) Call to Order**

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

#### **b) Public Comment**

No public comments.

#### **c) Discussion and a possible vote on open tracker items**

The CRC discussed the proposed neutral name change for the Board of Selectmen. The CRC will refer to Town Counsel on whether changing the name of the Board of Selectmen would be inconsistent or problematic with state statute. (Tracker Item A-7)

Mr. Cascella moved, and Mr. Rettger seconded a motion to recommend revising the Charter references to boards, commissions, committees, departments, elected offices, and agencies as amended. Motion carried 9-0. (Tracker Item I-3)

Mr. Lansen 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. (Tracker Item A-39)

Mr. Rettger moved, and Mr. Cascella seconded a motion to recommend revising the Charter references to "Chairman," "Chairwomen," and "Chairperson" to "Chair." Motion carried 9-0. (Tracker Item A-50)

Mr. Rettger moved, and Mr. Lansen seconded a motion to recommend revising Section 5-15 of the Charter to incorporate the changes received from the Youth Commission as revised. Motion carried 8-0-1. Mr. Lordi abstained. (Tracker Item N-1)

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. (Tracker Item A-29 and A37)

The CRC discussed adding the Affordable Housing Committee to the Charter. Ms. Mucchetti moved, and Mr. Schirm seconded a motion to develop draft language to make the Affordable Housing Committee a permanent Commission in the Charter for consideration at the next meeting. Motion carried 7-2. Ms. Welton and Mr. Lordi opposed. (Tracker A-51)

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. (Tracker Item A-36)

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. (Tracker Item A-38)

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. (Tracker Item A-21)

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. (Tracker Item A-22)

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. (Tracker Item A-22)

Mr. Lansen 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. (Tracker Item A-22)

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. (Tracker Item A-25)

Mr. Lansen 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. (Tracker Item A-23)

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. (Tracker Item A-24)

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. (Tracker Item A-26)

Ms. Christiansen moved, and Mr. Lansen 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. (Tracker Item A-27)

Ms. 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. (Tracker Item A-28)

Ms. 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. (Tracker Item A-35)

Ms. 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. (Tracker Item F-3)

**d) Communications**

The CRC reviewed communication strategies.

**e) Review of Action Item**

The CRC reviewed action items.

**f) Old Business**

The CRC reviewed the amended language to Article XI. The amended language will be forwarded to the Board of Ethics. The Board of Ethics will be invited to the CRC meeting on April 20, 2023, to discuss the revisions.

The CRC received from Mr. Lordi a request to withdraw his proposed amendment to Section 10.1 (c) of the Charter.

The CRC received from Mr. Rettger technical changes to the revised Section 5.14 of the Charter. Mr. Rettger moved, and Mr. Cascella seconded to incorporate these changes into the proposed revision to Section 5.14 of the Charter. Motion carried 9-0.

The CRC received and reviewed Mr. Rettger's proposed language that would be included in the Commission's report on the proposed change of the several Town offices from elected to appointed positions.

**g) Correspondence**

- a. Proposal to create an elected Fire Commission – Patrick Sexton
- b. The CRC received and discussed a second request to amend Town Ordinance 19-64, para B "Powers and Duties" from Geoffrey Morris, Chair of the ECDC.
- c. Received and acted on the referral from Mike Lordi to change "Chairman" Charter reference to "Chairperson."
- d. Received and acted on the referral from the Youth Commission.
- e. Lynne Noyes - referral re: Additional discussion and referrals
- f. Lori Mazzola – referral re: Term Limits and recorded meeting.

**h) Planning future CRC agendas/calendar**

The April 13, 2023, meeting agenda will include the discussion, deliberation, and voting on referrals to the CRC.

**i) Minutes – review and approval**

Motion to approve as amended the minutes of the March 30, 2023, meeting by Mr. Cascella, seconded by Mr. Lansen as revised. Motion carries 8-0-1. Mr. Rettger abstained.

**j) Adjourn**

Motion to adjourn at 9:41 p.m. by Mr. Rettger, seconded by Mr. Cascella. Motion carries 9 - 0.

Respectfully submitted,  
Mike Lordi, Recording Secretary

\* Tracker: The Change Request Tracker is a document that lists recommended changes received by the CRC.