

Town of Ridgefield Charter Revision Commission (CRC)

Special Meeting Minutes

May 20, 2023, at 10:25 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 10:25 am.

2. Public Comment

Mr. Marconi asked if an elected official has the ability to act as a resident and not an elected official. Ms. Mucchetti shared legal guidance she received as a member of the Planning and Zoning Commission. Mr. Marconi expressed his appreciation for the work done by the CRC.

3. Review of public input on the Draft Report

Mr. Rettger moved, and Mr. Schirm seconded a motion to reconsider adding to the Charter the requirement that all meetings of Boards, Commissions, and Committees be recorded. Motion carried 8 to 0.

Mr. Cascella moved, and Mr. Rettger seconded a motion to add the following sentence to Section 6.2 of the Charter. "All boards shall make their best efforts to electronically record all proceedings by audio or video." Motion carried 8 to 0.

Mr. Cascella moved, and Ms. Welton seconded a motion to reconsider the recommendation that the Charter be revised to have the positions of Treasure, Tax Collector, and Town Clerk be appointed rather than elected. Motion failed 2-5-1. Ms. Christansen, Mr. Lordi, Ms. Mucchetti, Mr. Schirm, and Mr. Lansen opposing. Mr. Rettger abstained.

Following the vote, Mr. Cascella withdrew the motion, and Ms. Welton withdrew her second since Mr. Cascella did not vote with the majority to make the Town Clerk an appointed position.

4. Discussion, and consideration of proposed revisions to the Draft Report

The CRC discussed the open action item regarding the "drop-down" rule.

Mr. Rettger moved, and Mr. Schirm seconded a motion to modify the Overview section of the report to incorporate "and the manner in which the First Selectman is elected" into the recommendations for the Board of Selectmen to explore. Motion carries 8-0.

5. Potential vote to submit Draft report to Town Clerk

Mr. Cascella moved, and Mr. Schirm seconded a motion to submit the draft report as amended to the Town Clerk. Motion carried 8-0.

The special meeting scheduled on March 23, 2023, and the regular meeting scheduled for May 25, 2023, will be canceled.

Ms. Christansen discussed what she would include in this week's press release.

6. Adjourn

Motion to adjourn at 11:22 am by Mr. Cascella, seconded by Mr. Schirm. Motion carried 8-0.