

Town of Ridgefield Charter Revision Commission

Special Meeting Minutes

March 2, 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, and Michael Rettger

Members Absent: Derick Schirm, Kim Welton, and Todd Zagorec

1. Call to Order

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

2. Public Comment

John Tartaglia of 638 Danbury Rd would like a reaffirmation of "home rule" added to the Charter. He also recommended that the Charter have the Board of Selectman responsible for mandating the mission and limitations of committees and commissions.

Gianna Petroccio of 78 Harvey Rd would like representatives of the Town or CRC to give a presentation to high school students on the Charter and its impact on the Town's governance.

3. Initial discussion of submission to CRC

The CRC reviewed with Ms. Burns, Mr. Steinman, and Mr. Seem recommended changes to Article XI of the Charter.

The CRC reviewed with Mr. Neblett, I.T. Director, his recommended change to the Charter.

The CRC reviewed with Mr. Lansen a proposal for establishing an IT Oversight Committee.

4. Subsequent discussion of submission to CRC

a. Various technical changes proposed by Town Clerk

Mr. Lordi moved, and Mr. Lansen seconded a motion to table the discussion on Ms. Lionetti's suggested change to Section 3-2 of the Charter to a future meeting. Motion carried 6-0.

Mr. Rettger moved, and Mr. Lordi seconded a motion to recommend revising Section 3-7 of the Charter to incorporate Ms. Lionetti's suggested change, as amended. Motion carried 6-0.

Mr. Lordi moved, and Ms. Christiansen seconded a motion to table the discussion on Ms. Lionetti's suggested change to Section 4-3 of the Charter to a future meeting. Motion carried 6-0.

Mr. Lordi moved, and Ms. Christiansen seconded a motion to table the discussion on Ms. Lionetti's suggested change to Section 4-4 of the Charter to a future meeting. Motion carried 6-0.

Mr. Rettger moved, and Mr. Lansen seconded a motion to table the discussion on Ms. Lionetti's suggested change to Section 4-5 of the Charter to a future meeting. Motion carried 6-0.

Mr. Lordi moved, and Mr. Rettger seconded a motion to table the discussion on Ms. Lionetti's suggested change to Section 4-7 of the Charter to a future meeting. Motion carried 6-0.

Mr. Cascella moved, and Mr. Lansen seconded a motion to recommend revising Section 6-1 of the Charter to incorporate Ms. Lionetti's suggested change as drafted by Mr. Rettger. Motion carried 6-0.

b. Various technical changes proposed by Mr. Rettger

Mr. Rettger moved, and Mr. Lordi seconded a motion to table the discussion of Mr. Rettger's suggested review of the various references in the Charter to Connecticut General Statutes as drafted by Mr. Zagorec to a future meeting. Motion carried 6-0.

Mr. Cascella moved, and Mr. Lansen seconded a motion to recommend revising Article IV of the Charter to establish the cycle of overlapping terms of elections for various elective boards as drafted by Mr. Rettger. Motion carried 6-0.

Mr. Rettger moved, and Mr. Cascella seconded a motion to table the discussion of Mr. Rettger's suggested review of the terms "agency" and "department" in the Charter to a future meeting. Motion carried 6-0.

Mr. Rettger moved, and Mr. Lansen seconded a motion to table the discussion on Mr. Rettger's suggested deletion of Section 4-17 of the Charter to a future meeting. Motion carried 6-0.

Mr. Cascella moved, and Mr. Lansen seconded a motion to recommend revising Section 4-7 of the Charter to incorporate technical changes as drafted by Mr. Rettger. Motion carried 6-0.

Mr. Cascella moved, and Mr. Lansen seconded a motion to recommend revising Section 4-11 and Section 5-4 of the Charter to incorporate technical changes as drafted by Mr. Rettger. Motion carried 6-0.

Mr. Cascella moved, and Mr. Lansen seconded a motion to recommend revising Section 4-18 of the Charter to incorporate technical changes as drafted by Mr. Rettger. Motion carried 6-0.

Mr. Cascella moved, and Mr. Lansen seconded a motion to recommend revising Section 5-14 of the Charter to incorporate technical changes as drafted by Mr. Rettger. Motion carried 6-0.

Mr. Cascella moved, and Mr. Lordi seconded a motion to recommend revising Section 9-17 of the Charter to incorporate technical changes as drafted by Mr. Rettger. Motion carried 6-0.

c. Article 9-9 title change for Director of Civil Preparedness to Director of Emergency Management

Mr. Rettger moved, and Mr. Lordi seconded a motion to table the discussion of revising Section 9-1 and Section 9.9 of the Charter to a future meeting. Motion carried 6-0.

5. Communications

The CRC reviewed the communication activities of the Commission. Ms. Christiansen will inform the Ridgefield Press each week of the items scheduled for discussion at the next CRC meeting.

6. Dropbox 101

The CRC reviewed how to access the CRC's dropbox account.

7. Review of Tracker Items

The tracker will be updated for the next meeting

8. Review of Action Item

The Action Items will be updated for the next meeting

9. Old Business

Mr. Marconi and Ms. Kozlark responded to an email from Ms. Mucchetti. Mr. Marconi and Ms. Kozlark are deferring all their Public Hearing comments to the Board of Selectman referral.

Mr. O'Brien responded to an email from Ms. Mucchetti. Mr. O'Brien recommended that the CRC review why existing committees are not enumerated in the Town Charter.

Correspondence

Mr. Wehking's submission of a recommended change to Section 10.1 (d) of the Charter.

Mr. Ciota, Chairman Commission for Accessibility, submission of a recommended change to Section 5-7 of the Charter.

10. Planning future CRC agendas/calendar

Items for discussion on March 9, 2023, will include the review of proposals from the Board of Finance, a recommended change to Section 10.1 (c) from Mr. Lordi, and a recommended change to Section 10.1 (d) from Mr. Wehking.

Items for subsequent discussion and possible vote on March 9, 2023, will include proposals from Ms. Lionetti, Town Clerk, for various technical changes, recommended change to Article XI of the Charter from Ms. Burns and Mr. Steinman, a recommendation from Mr. Lansen and Mr. Schirm on establishing an IT Oversight Committee, and recommended changes from Mr. Neblett, I.T. Director.

Items for discussion on March 16, 2023, will include proposals from Ms. Cernone and Mr. Cernone to amend the Town Charter to have the Town Treasurer and Tax Collector be appointed vs. elected positions and to have the Ridgefield Affordable Housing Committee report to the Planning and Zoning Commission instead of the Board of Selectman.

Items for discussion on March 23, 2023, will include the review of recommended change to Section 5-7 from the Commission for Accessibility and Mr. O'Brien's recommendation that the CRC review why existing committees are not enumerated in the Town Charter.

11. Minutes – review and approval

Motion to approve the minutes of the January 26, 2023, meeting by Mr. Cascella, seconded by Mr. Lansen. Motion carries 6 to 0 in favor.

Motion to approve as amended the minutes of the February 23, 2023, meeting by Mr. Cascella, seconded by Mr. Rettger. Motion carries 6 to 0 in favor.

12. Adjourn

Motion to adjourn at 9:50 p.m. by Mr. Cascella, seconded by Mr. Rettger. Motion carries 6 to 0 in favor.

Respectfully submitted,
Mike Lordi, Recording Secretary