

**TOWN OF GRANBY
CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION 2011
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 28, 2012**

PRESENT: Francis Brady, Chairman; Terri Ann Hahn, Diane Hernsdorf, Annie Hornish, Lowell Johnson, Sheri Litchfield, Jim Lofink, Melissa Migliaccio, and David Russell

OTHERS PRESENT: Public was in attendance.

The meeting of the Charter Revision Commission 2011 was called to order by Chairman Francis Brady at 7:30 p.m.

PUBLIC

Chairman Brady asked the public if they had comments to share.

Susan and Bill Regan, Granby, CT were here as observers.

Ms. Hollister and Ms. Sandrige arrived a little later, after the meeting minutes action was taken. Their comments were:

Valorie Hollister of West Granby, CT, sent an email to the Commission and present tonight to express her suggestions to how a town budget may be passed. She commented on how all Granby voters should have an opportunity to vote either in person or by absentee. This year she is unable to attend and vote. She supports this right not just for myself, but for those she don't agree with, even if it means the initiatives she believes in don't get passed.

Danielle Sandrige of West Granby, CT, also sent an email earlier to the Commission and was present tonight. She strongly believes that as a country built on Democratic principles and the right to vote, a municipality must make every reasonable effort to reach a majority of its citizens and provide them the opportunity to vote. She commented as one of the reasons for a low turnout at the annual town meeting may be the time the meeting is scheduled at. The hours of 7-9 p.m. are the two busiest hours of the day for a family and families in the school system need to have at least one adult home to watch the children during the annual town meeting.

In response to the public, Chairman Brady indicated their concerns or suggestions on how a town meeting is held and how an annual town budget is approved is under review with the Commission.

MINUTES

The Commission reviewed the meeting minutes of March 14, 2012. A discussion held on agenda item "Address significant issues as to the Charter" as to whether or not specific notes in this section should be part of the minutes.

ON A MOTION by David Russell, seconded by Jim Lofink, the Commission voted 8-1-0 to add specific notes on agenda item "Address Significant Issues as to the Charter" and defer the formal approval of the meeting minutes of March 14, 2012 until the meeting of April 11, 2012. Ms. Hahn voted nay.

Chairman Brady and Recording Secretary Chieski will coordinate the specific notes from the previous meeting and add them under the agenda item.

**ADDRESS SIGNIFICANT ISSUES AS TO THE CHARTER RAISED IN FEBRUARY 24, 2012
MEMORANDUM**

The Commission reviewed a working draft document to significant issues in the Charter. They will continue reviewing this document in preparation of preparing a draft report to the Board of Selectmen.

Highlights as to the document "Address Significant Issues as to the Charter" are incorporated in the minutes as an attachment.

**CONTINUE DISCUSSION AND REVIEW OF 2002 CHARTER
OTHER BUSINESS**

A discussion was held concerning the definition of a town's charter and its relationship with state statutes. The two definitions discussed were (1) the setting your (town's) guideline within the framework of the state statutes, (2) you (town) may hold and exercise certain rights, opportunities, benefits along with state statutes.

Other topics for further discussion at a later time are ethics, different types of overrule petitions, and town manager selection.

CONFIRM DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Commissioners Hornish and Litchfield will lead discussion on Chapters Two and Three, Commissioners Hahn and Johnson will lead discussion on Chapters Four, Five, Six. Commissioners Hernsdorf and Lofink will lead discussion on Chapters Seven, Eight, and Nine.

The Charter Revision Commission 2011 next regular meeting is scheduled on April 11, 2012 at 7:30 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

ON A MOTION by James Lofink, seconded by Melisa Migliaccio, the Board voted unanimously (9-0-0) to adjourn the meeting at 9:23 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia I. Chieski
Recording Secretary