

TOWN OF GRANBY
CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING

Minutes

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January 12, 2023

Members Present: Chairman Edward Ohannessian
Vice-Chairman Anthony McGovern
Commissioner Lynn Guelzow
Commissioner Rebecca Brewer
Commissioner Mark Lockwood
Commissioner Benjamin Perron
Commissioner Terri-Ann Hahn
Commissioner Anthony Cappelli
Commissioner Francis Brady

Others Present: Erica P. Robertson, Town Manager
Scott A. Nolan, Town Clerk

I. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Chairman Edward Ohannessian called the regular meeting of the Charter Revision Commission to order at 6:30 p.m. in the Granby Town Hall Meeting Room.

II. ADOPTION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Commissioner Mark Lockwood made a motion for the adoption of the following resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Granby Charter Revision Commission hereby approves the minutes of the regularly scheduled Charter Revision meeting of November 28, 2022.

The motion was seconded by Commissioner Rebecca Brewer at which time discussion followed. Commissioner Terri-Ann Hahn noted that in section E, line 2 the word "timeline" is missing. After a brief discussion the motion passed by a unanimous voice vote (9/0/0) **MOTION CARRIES**.

III. OLD BUSINESS

A. Review of the Charter Revision Commission Timeline & Deadline

Chairman Edward Ohannessian reminded members of the Charter Revision Commission about the timeline and noted that it was important to be mindful of the May 20, 2023, deadline for a draft to be submitted to the Board of Selectmen. Commissioner Terri-Ann Hahn further noted that it was important to stick with the timeline and to ensure that the Charter Revision Commission was staying on task and meeting our deadlines.

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IV. NEW BUSINESS

A. Review of Public Hearing

Chairman Edward Ohannessian thanked Paul Willis, Registrar of Voters for his feedback and noted that he felt it was important that the Charter Revision Commission review the feedback and take a look at possibly revising that schedule.

Chairman Edward Ohannessian inquired about whether or not the Town had received any feedback using the Charter@Granby-ct.gov email address at which time Town Manager, Erica Robertson noted that the only feedback received to date was from the Registrar of Voters office. Town Manager, Erica Robertson also noted that the deadline for feedback was January 20, 2023, and that we would be compiling the feedback submitted and sharing it with members of the Charter Revision Commission at their next meeting.

Chairman Edward Ohannessian inquired if the Connecticut Conference of Municipalities (CCM) had any opinion on “hot topics” that are currently affecting town charters and asked Town Manager, Erica Robertson, to reach out to CCM and find out as much as she can about Charter Revision topics.

Chairman Edward Ohannessian inquired with members of the Charter Commission if they felt the current meeting room setup was conducive to a working environment. After a brief discussion, the Charter Commission decided, they would like to meet at tables to have more of a round table discussion.

Chairman Edward Ohannessian asked members of the Charter Revision Commission what they felt were the topics they would like to discuss going forward and asked each member to identify areas of discussion:

Commissioner Francis Brady

- Noted that he would like to discuss the position of how the First Selectman gets elected.
- Positions of Profit as it relates to section 3-12
- Clarify the Town Manager's tenure and that there should be some clarity that the Town Manager can be removed without cause

Vice-Chairman Anthony McGovern

- Usability
- Readability
- Accessibility
- Understandability

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Commissioner Terri-Ann Hahn

- 10-5 (c) Conflict with Primaries
- 2-4 Eligibility for Office and the difference between an elector and a regular voter
- 2-5 Breaking a Tie as they relate to elections.
- 3-12 Position of Profit
- Clarify minority representation
- What constitutes an appointed officer, board, or persons

Vice-Chairman Anthony McGovern

- 10-6 Expenditures and Accounting

Commissioner Lynn Guelzow

- Budget Vote Timeline & scheduling conflicts
- Consistency with boards and boards with alternates

Commissioner Rebecca Brewer

- Flexibility and budget voting to ensure maximizing volunteers
- Breaking a tie vote

Commissioner Mark Lockwood

- Budget
- Electors/voters and property owners and who can vote
- Town Manager process and what happens when there is a vacancy/ illness
- Flexibility with the Board of Finance and flexibility with 3-12
- Officer terms and when they take office

Commissioner Benjamin Perron

- Area of the Charter where it lacks guidance
- Level of impact/checks & balances

Chairman Edward Ohannessian

- Revisit the timeline for the budget
- Review starting term dates for board/ commission members

After discussion, Chairman Edward Ohannessian asked members of the Charter Revision Commission how they would like to proceed with the work that the Charter Revision Commission needs to do and whether they wanted to work as sub-committees or as a large group. After discussion, the group felt it was best to continue to work as a large group rather than sub-committees.

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V. PUBLIC INPUT

Robert Flanagan (Woodcliff Drive) asked members of the Charter Revision Commission if they had proposals or drafts already prepared and when the deadline is for the public to submit feedback to incorporate changes.

Michael Ware (45 Hungry Road) thanked members of the Charter Revision Commission for their service and thinks it's wonderful that the town reviews the town charter every few years. Mr. Ware further indicated that he would like more information regarding how Connecticut General Statutes affect electing a First Selectman. Mr. Ware further noted that this version of the Town Charter needs to last for the next ten (10) years and that the existing charter served a small rural town very well, but may not manage a growing community in the same way.

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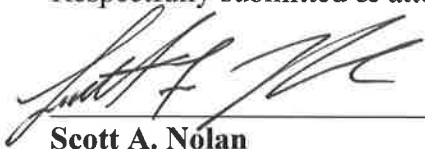
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VI. ADJOURNMENT

There being no more business to come before the meeting, Commissioner Mark Lockwood made a motion to adjourn the regular Charter Revision Commission meeting at 7:26 p.m., which was seconded by Commissioner Lynn Guelzow and passed by a unanimous voice vote. (9/0/0) **MOTION CARRIES.**

Respectfully submitted & attested,



Scott A. Nolan
Town Clerk

Received for Record January 18, 2023
By SCOTT A. NOLAN, Town Clerk