

**TOWN OF GRANBY
CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION
SPECIAL MEETING**

Minutes

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February 2, 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 – Via Zoom
 Commissioner Francis Brady

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

I. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Chairman Edward Ohannessian called the 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 Lynn Guelzow 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 Charter Revision Public Hearing of January 12, 2023.

The motion was seconded by Commissioner Terri-Ann Hahn which passed by a unanimous voice vote **(9/0/0) MOTION CARRIES**.

Commissioner Terri-Ann Hahn 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 Charter Revision meeting of January 12, 2023.

The motion was seconded by Commissioner Francis Brady at which time discussion took place. Vice-Chairman Anthony McGovern noted that his name had been listed twice in the meeting minutes under New Business. Commissioner Lynn Guelzow further noted a typo on page 3 that the word “are” should be “or”. After discussion the motion passed by a unanimous voice vote **(9/0/0) MOTION CARRIES**.

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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 there had not been changes to the timeline since our last meeting and asked members if they had any feedback regarding the timeline.

B. Received Charter Revision Commission Feedback

Chairman Edward Ohannessian informed members that they had received a packet of feedback from members of the public, along with the Connecticut Conference of Municipalities (CCM), and our Town Attorney (Halloran & Sage LLP). Commissioner Lynn Guelzow noted that she appreciated the level of the thoughtfulness of the comments that had been received.

C. Charter Revision Items

Chairman Edward Ohannessian thanked members of the Commission for their comments at the last meeting and inquired about how the commissioners wanted to move forward with making suggestions/ edits to the document. Commissioner Mark Lockwood offered his services to be the one to keep track of the redline and blackline edits so they could be presented to the Board of Selectmen in an easy-to-read manner.

Members of the Charter Revision began a discussion on the language in Chapter 1 (Incorporation and General Powers). Discussion took place about some specific language, grammar, and political subdivisions.

Members of the Charter Revision began a discussion on the language in Chapter 2 (Elections). Discussion took place about the number of Board of Education candidates any one particular political party can have; along with the nomination process for political parties, minority representation, registered voters, electors, breaking a tie, and vacancies. Members of the Charter Revision Commission discussed at length the process of filling a vacancy on the Board of Selectmen and what would happen when an Unaffiliated seat of a Board/ Commission became vacant. Members of the Charter Revision Commission also discussed whether or not the Town Charter should mandate that Public Input be a part of each board & commission's agenda at which time further discussion took place.

Members of the Charter Revision began a discussion on the language in Chapter 3 (Elective Officers). Discussion took place about suggesting that section 3-1 that language be adopted to allow Boards and Commissions the option to adopt their own by-laws. After a brief discussion members felt that

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they would like to consider it further at a later date. Further discussion took place regarding term limits.

Members of the Charter Revision Commission discussed section 3-4 (Board of Selectmen) regarding whether or not terms should be staggered. Discussion also took place regarding the election of the First Selectman and if the present system following Connecticut General Statute § 9-188 was a good idea. It was also suggested that if members of the Charter Commission were in agreement on this issue that the statute where the language originated should be referenced for clarity. Further discussion took place on whether the method of electing a First Selectman should be in line with the current language in Connecticut General Statute § 9-188 or if the Town wanted to adopt a home rule where if you lost as a candidate for First Selectman that your votes would not be counted towards a seat on the Board of Selectmen.

Members of the Charter Revision Commission discussed section 3-5 (Board of Education) regarding the number of Board members that are currently allowed to be on the Board of Education and if that number should be increased. Town Manager, Erica P. Robertson, noted that the Board of Finance is working on offering feedback to the Charter Revision Commission regarding areas relevant to them. Members of the Charter Revision Commission also discussed merging sections 3-8 (Zoning Board of Appeals) and 3-9 (Zoning Board of Appeals Alternates).

Members of the Charter Revision Commission discussed section 3-11 (Town Moderator). Discussion took place regarding the Town Moderator position and what role they were currently serving in Town government. It was noted that the Town moderator was still in charge of running the Town meetings.

Members of the Charter Revision Commission discussed section 3-12 (Position of Profit). Members discussed the concept of conflict of interest and whether or not we should include a conflict-of-interest section or if this section should be replaced with a conflict-of-interest section. Members felt that the section of position of profit might be too broad.

Commissioner Lynn Guelzow made a motion for the adoption of the following resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Granby Charter Revision Commission hereby closes the old business portion of the Charter Revision Agenda of February 2, 2023.

The motion was seconded by Commissioner Francis Brady which passed by a unanimous voice vote (9/0/0) **MOTION CARRIES**.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

There being no New Business to discuss Commissioner Lynn Guelzow made a motion for the adoption of the following resolution:

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BE IT RESOLVED, that the Granby Charter Revision Commission hereby closes the new business portion of the Charter Revision Agenda of February 2, 2023.

The motion was seconded by Commissioner Terri-Ann Hahn which passed by a unanimous voice vote (9/0/0) **MOTION CARRIES**.

V. PUBLIC INPUT

There being no Public Input Commissioner Terri-Ann Hahn made a motion for the adoption of the following resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Granby Charter Revision Commission hereby closes the Public Input portion of the Charter Revision Agenda of February 2, 2023.

The motion was seconded by Commissioner Lynn Guelzow which passed by a unanimous voice vote (9/0/0) **MOTION CARRIES**.

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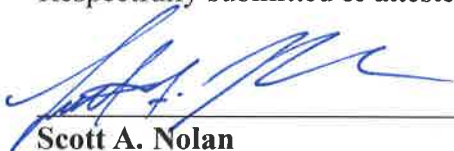
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VI. ADJOURNMENT

There being no more business to come before the meeting, Commissioner Benjamin Perron made a motion to adjourn the Charter Revision Commission meeting at 9:21 p.m., which was seconded by Commissioner Francis Brady and passed by a unanimous voice vote. (9/0/0)
MOTION CARRIES.

Respectfully submitted & attested,



Scott A. Nolan
Town Clerk

Received for Record February 7, 2023 at 3:51 PM
By SCOTT A. NOLAN, Town Clerk