

FINAL MINUTES

CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION

June 27, 2013

Town Hall Meeting Room

A meeting of the Charter Revision Commission was held on June 27, 2013 in the Weston Town Hall Meeting Room. Present were Woody Bliss, Dennis Brooks, Nina Daniel, Arne de Keijzer, Kenneth Edgar, Michael O'Brien and John Stripp.

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 PM.

The Commission considered the areas of the Charter that have been identified by the Selectmen and by the public as requiring further discussion to determine whether they should be amended. The following points were discussed:

1. Section 8.3 of the Charter requires the Selectmen to, among other things, give public notice of the expiration of the term of office of a Town officer appointed pursuant to Section 8.2. The sense of the Commission was that this requirement should be eliminated.
2. Section 6.3(b) of the Charter, as it relates to the Board of Education, requires that Board to elect a Chairman and Vice-Chairman during the month of January of each year. It has been pointed out to the Commission that this requirement is somewhat inconsistent with State law. The sense of the Commission was that the Board of Education should be able to elect its Chairman and Vice-Chairman prior to the month of January each year, as was the case under the prior Charter.
3. Under Section 8.2(a) of the Charter the position of Tax Collector is an appointed position. It was suggested that the Charter be amended to make this an elected position. The sense of the Commission was that this change was not necessary.
4. It has been suggested that references to the First Selectman in the Charter be changed to the First Selectman/Selectwoman. The sense of the Commission was that this change was not necessary.
5. It has been suggested that the Charter be amended to require a quorum in order for a Town Meeting (other than the Annual Town Budget Meeting) to be able to act on a matter. The sense of the Commission was that this change was not necessary.

6. A variety of suggestions have been made regarding the Annual Town Budget Meeting. They include reducing or eliminating the “quorum” requirement contained in Section 9.5(d)(2) of the Charter as well as eliminating the requirement that a referendum be held on the budget under Section 9.6. After considerable discussion, the sense of a majority of the members of the Commission was that the current quorum and referendum requirements should be retained, although there was a sense that the quorum requirement should be reviewed in some future year, based on past experience, to determine its appropriateness. A minority of the Commission had the sense that the quorum requirement should be reduced or eliminated.

It was further the sense of the Commission that the presence or absence of a quorum should be determined once, at the start of the Annual Town Budget Meeting, and that in the absence of a quorum the meeting should be adjourned and the referendum process begun, based on the budget approved by the Board of Finance.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:20 PM.

Kenneth C. Edgar, Jr., Co- Chair