

CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION

March 24, 2012

Town Hall Meeting Room

A meeting of the Charter Revision Commission was held on March 24, 2012 in the Weston Town Hall Meeting Room. Present were Woody Bliss, Richard A. Bochinski, Nina Daniel, Arne de Keijzer, Kenneth C. Edgar, Jr., Susan A. Moch and Dennis H. Tracey, III.

The meeting was called to order at 1:00 PM.

Mr. Bochinski moved to approve the minutes of the March 17 meeting, as amended pursuant to Mr. Edgar's comments, and Mr. Tracey seconded. The motion was approved, 7-0.

Mr. Saltzman of the Planning & Zoning Commission appeared to present his comments on the tentative decisions of the Charter Revision Commission previously printed in the Weston Forum, among other media. Mr. Saltzman felt that requiring a Town board or commission to obtain permission of the First Selectman in order to obtain a legal opinion from the Town Attorney was inappropriate. He also felt that the requirements for overturning an action of the Board of Selectmen should be liberalized and that the new Charter should make clear where legislative authority resided in Town. Finally, he felt that the Commission should do more to encourage participation in Town government by nonaffiliated voters.

Mr. Tracey noted that Donna Anastasia, Town Clerk would be appearing before the Commission on March 28.

The Commission then discussed Section 3.4(b) and 8.5 of the revised Charter, regarding a requirement that multi-year Town commitments caused by federal and State grants be submitted to a Town meeting, and discussed giving public notice of vacancies in appointed offices.

Mr. Edgar then left the meeting. Discussion continued, and the sense of the Commission was, regarding Mr. Saltzman's suggestion, that the approval by the First Selectman of a board or commission's request to obtain an opinion from the Town Attorney should not be unreasonably withheld, and that such a provision would be included in the revised Charter.

After completion of its discussions, Mr. de Keijzer made a motion to adjourn the meeting, and Mr. Bochinski seconded the motion, which was approved 6-0, Mr. Edgar being absent. The meeting was adjourned at 2:30 PM.

Kenneth C. Edgar, Jr., Co-Chair