

MINUTES

CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION

September 17, 2011

Town Hall Meeting Room

A meeting of the Charter Revision Commission was held on September 17, 2011 in the Weston Town Hall Meeting Room. Present were Woody Bliss, Richard A. Bochinski, Nina Daniel, Arne de Keijzer, Kenneth C. Edgar, Jr., Susan Moch and Dennis H. Tracey, III. The meeting was called to order at 11:00 am.

The Commission first approved the minutes of its September 7 meeting, subject to the correction of typographical errors.

The Commission then received comments from Stephan Grozinger, Chair of the Planning & Zoning Commission. Mr. Grozinger had previously provided a letter signed by the members of the P&Z, and provided a separate letter in his personal capacity, both of which have been placed into the record. Mr. Grozinger addressed several issues concerning possible revisions to the Town Charter, including whether a Town Meeting should be required in order to (a) exempt the Town from zoning ordinances; and (b) convert the existing Regional Planning Agency into a Council of Governments. A full transcript of Mr. Grozinger's remarks will be made available on the Town's website.

Don Saltzman then appeared before the Commission and shared his views on the Charter, including comments relating to the applicability of Town zoning ordinances to Town property and the use of machine ballots. A full transcript of Mr. Saltzman's remarks will be made available on the Town's website.

Margaret Wirtenberg then appeared before the Commission and provided her views as a member of the Planning & Zoning Commission from 1983-1990, including on the applicability of Town zoning ordinances to Town property. A full transcript of Ms. Wirtenberg's remarks will be made available on the Town's website.

Selectman Dan Gilbert then appeared before the Commission and shared his views on the Charter, including comments regarding the budget process, the terms, size and responsibilities of the Selectmen, the process for nomination of candidates for public office, the responsibilities of the Town Administrator, the issue of whether an Town exemption from zoning ordinances and conversion to a Council of Governments should be submitted to Town Meeting, whether the Town Clerk and Tax Collector should be appointed positions; the issue of "safe seats"; and the filling of vacancies in elected positions. A full transcript of Mr. Gilbert's remarks will be made available on the Town's website.

Mike O'Brien, the chairman of the Board of Finance then appeared before the Commission and shared his views on the Charter, including regarding the terms and election of members of the Board of Finance, the use of alternates, and procedures for the Annual Town Budget Meeting. A full transcript of Mr. O'Brien's remarks will be made available on the Town's website.

Having no further business, the Meeting was adjourned at 1:00.

Dennis H. Tracey, III, Co-Chair