

MINUTES
CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
May 4, 2016

PRESENT: Chairman James Staunton, Commissioners Gary Bousquet, Brad Sullivan, Art Kuever, Karen Marsden, Lynn Hidek, Dennis Donovan, Eric Bergman, Peter Nye

The Regular Meeting was called to order at 7:51 p.m.

A motion was made by G. Bousquet, seconded by Karen Marsden to approve the minutes of March 29, 2016 as submitted. The motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by L. Hidek, seconded by G. Bousquet to accept the schedule of meeting dates as submitted. The motion carried unanimously. Members should alert the chairman if they will not be attending a particular meeting.

Goals and objectives were discussed with some of the commissioners' thoughts as follows:

- Should the charter revision be included on the November 2016 ballot
- The topics should be prioritized
- Revisions made to the charter need to be reviewed/approved by the BoS in one document – not piecemeal
- A motion was made by P. Nye, seconded by G. Bousquet to set the charter revision deadline at January 11, 2017. The motion carried unanimously.
- Consider doing small revisions first – strengthen language
- Larger issues, such as consideration of a town manager, will take more time
- The Home Rule allows for towns to change their form of government
- The Commissioners should review the charter and make their recommendations for revisions
- The revisions to the charter should be dealt with by sub-committees: review the items listed during the public hearing and pick which item you would like to work on
- Questioned whether the commission should fix the existing charter or create an entirely new one
- It was recommended that sub-committees be formed to:
 - Draft/manage the document
 - Legal sub-committee
 - Community Outreach sub-committee
 - Research and ensure the charter revision does not go beyond the statute
 - Have discussions with BoS and State Government
- Formulate a game plan at the next meeting

P. Nye left the meeting at 8:35 p.m.

A motion was made by G. Bousquet, seconded by L. Hidek to adopt Roberts Rules as the regulations governing the meetings. The motion carried with a vote of 7 in favor and 1 opposed (B. Sullivan).

One suggestion, but not motioned, was to reduce Chapter III, Section 3-7, Board of Finance Alternates from an elected term of six (6) years to an elected term of four (4) years.

L. Hidek reported that Michael Maniscalco, Town Manager of East Hampton would attend a meeting to speak and answer any questions.

E. Bergman recommended the commissioners review the websites for Office of Legislative Research (cga.ct.gov) and COST. He will share his discoveries during the sub-committee time.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:54 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Wendy McDermott, Clerk