

Town of Ridgefield Charter Revision Commission

Special Meeting Minutes

February 23, 2023, at 6:30 p.m.

Town Hall Annex Conference Room #2

These minutes are a general summary of the meeting and are not intended to be a verbatim transcription. A video of the meeting is available on the Town's website.

Members Present: Bob Cascella, Laurie Christiansen, Tom Lansen, Mike Lordi, Rebecca Mucchetti, Michael Rettger, Derick Schirm, Kim Welton(by phone), Todd Zagorec

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Ms. Mucchetti at 6:30 p.m.

2. Public Comment

No public comment

3. Discussion of submission to CRC

The CRC reviewed with Ms. Lionetti her suggested changes to the Town Charter. Mr. Zagorec will discuss with the Town Attorney the issue raised regarding the eligibility of non-resident trustees of a trust that owns taxable property in the Town to vote at Town Meetings and referendums.

The CRC reviewed with Mr. Rettger his suggested technical changes to the Town Charter.

The CRC discussed the recommended change of Article 9-9 Director of Civil Preparedness (updating title)

4. Communication planning

The CRC reviewed the communication objectives of the Commission. The CRC agreed that communications should focus on informing the public how to participate in the Town Charter revision process. Ms. Christiansen will revise and distribute the press release to news publications and networking channels.

5. Review of Tracker Items

The CRC agreed that a PDF version of the change request tracker should be posted on the Town website. The tracker on the website will list proposed changes and issues being reviewed by the CRC.

6. Review of Action Item

The CRC reviewed the action items spreadsheet.

7. Old Business

Ms. Mucchetti will email Mr. O'Brien to clarify if his question on including the Insurance and Risk Management Committee in the Town Charter is an issue he wants the CRC to consider.

8. Correspondence

Mr. Lordi's submission of the requested change to Section 10.1 (c) of the Charter.

9. Planning future CRC agendas/calendar

Items for discussion on March 2, 2023, will include a proposal from Mr. Lansen and Mr. Schirm on establishing a Board of Technology, recommended changes from Mr. Neblett, I.T. Director, and a recommended change to Article XI of the Charter from Ms. Burns and Mr. Steinman.

Items for subsequent discussion and possible vote on March 2, 2023, will include proposals from Ms. Lionetti, Town Clerk, for various technical changes, proposals from Mr. Rettger for various technical changes, and the recommendation to change "Director of Civil Preparedness" to "Director of Emergency Management."

Items for discussion on March 9, 2023, will include the review of proposals from the Board of Finance and a recommended change to Section 10.1 (c) from Mr. Lordi.

Items for discussion on March 16, 2023, will include proposals from Ms. Cernone and Mr. Cernone to amend the Town Charter to have the Town Treasurer and Tax Collector be appointed vs. elected positions and to have the Ridgefield Affordable Housing Committee report to the Planning and Zoning Commission instead of the Board of Selectman.

10. Minutes – review and approval

Motion to approve as amended the minutes of the February 16, 2023, meeting by Mr. Cascella, seconded by Mr. Rettger. Motion carries 9 to 0 in favor.

11. Adjourn

Motion to adjourn at 9:25 p.m. by Mr. Cascella, seconded by Mr. Lansen. Motion carries 9 to 0 in favor.

Respectfully submitted,
Mike Lordi, Recording Secretary