

Town of Ridgefield Charter Revision Commission (CRC)

Minutes

March 9, 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 Larsen, Mike Lordi, Rebecca Mucchetti, Michael Rettger, Derick Schirm, Kim Welton, and Todd Zagorec

1. Call to Order

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

2. Public Comment

Andrea Beebe of 378 Main Street suggested that CRC consider holding a public meeting at the Ridgefield Library.

3. Initial discussion of submission to CRC

The CRC reviewed with Mr. Lordi a recommended change to Section 10.1 (c) of the Charter. (Tracker: Tab F Item 1)*

The CRC reviewed Mr. Wehking's recommended change to Section 10.1 (d) regarding the annual budget referendum. (Tracker: Tab F Item 2)

The CRC reviewed with Mr. Ulmer various technical changes proposed by the Board of Finance. (Tracker: Tab B Items 1-7)

4. Subsequent discussion of submission to CRC

a. Various technical changes proposed by Town Clerk

Ms. Lionetti's suggested change to Section 3-2 of the Charter was withdrawn. (Tracker: Tab J Item 1)*

Mr. Rettger moved, and Mr. Cascella seconded a motion to recommend revising Section 4-3 of the Charter to incorporate technical changes drafted by Mr. Lansen as amended. Motion carried 9-0. (Tracker: Tab J Item 3)

Mr. Lordi moved, and Mr. Lansen seconded a motion to decline to recommend revising Section 4-4 of the Charter. Motion carried 9-0. (Tracker: Tab J Item 4)

Mr. Cascella moved, and Mr. Schirm seconded a motion to recommend revising Section 4-5 of the Charter to incorporate technical changes drafted by Mr. Zagorec. Motion carried 9-0. (Tracker: Tab J Item 5)

Mr. Rettger moved, and Mr. Lansen seconded a motion to recommend revising Section 4-7 of the Charter to incorporate technical changes drafted by Mr. Zagorec. Motion carried 9-0. (Tracker: Tab J Item 6)

b. Ellen Burns and Lester Steinmen - Proposed revisions to Article XI, Standards of Conduct

Mr. Lordi moved, and Mr. Cascella seconded a motion to table the discussion of Ms. Burns's and Mr. Steinmen's proposed revisions to Article XI, Standards of Conduct in the Charter. Motion carried 9-0. (Tracker: Tab A Item 4)

c. Andrew Neblett - Proposed IT technical Changes, Electronic Communication

Mr. Lordi moved, and Mr. Schirm seconded a motion to table the discussion of Mr. Neblett's suggested changes to the Charter. Motion carried 9-0. (Tracker: Tab G Item 1)

d. Tom Lansen and Derick Schirm - Proposed creation of IT Oversight Committee

Mr. Lordi moved, and Mr. Rettger seconded a motion to table the discussion of Mr. Lansen's and Mr. Schirm's - Proposed creation of an IT Oversight Committee. Motion carried 9-0. (Tracker: Tab G Item 2)

5. Communications

The CRC reviewed the communication activities of the Commission. Ms. Christiansen reviewed her discussion with the League of Women Voters (LWV). The LWV is willing to feature the Charter revision process as part of its "Get to Know Your Town" series. The CRC agreed that a presentation before the public hearings would be beneficial.

6. Review of Tracker Items

The CRC reviewed the tracker. Mr. Rettger will maintain a redline version of the Charter incorporating recommended changes approved by the CRC.

7. Review of Action Item

The CRC reviewed the action item list.

8. Old Business

Ms. Mucchetti reviewed the status of the invitations sent to attend future meetings.

Ms. Mucchetti explained that correspondence should be sent to CRC members using bcc.

Ms. Mucchetti and Mr. Cascella will forward referrals the CRC receives to the First Selectmen weekly.

Mr. Rettger provided an update on his review of the terms "agency" and "department" in the Charter.

9. Correspondence

Ms. Mucchetti reviewed the correspondence the CRC received.

- a) John Tartaglia - referral with various technical changes
- b) Colleen Broderick- referral re: Board of Selectman name change
- c) Heather Nunes – referral re: Voting opportunities.
- d) Debra Franceschini – referral with various technical changes re: Ridgefield Affordable Housing Committee, Commission on Aging, FOIA compliance, election accessibility, terms of office
- e) Wendy Lionetti – correspondence following up on proposal revisions
- f) Andrea Beebe – referral from the Commission on Aging
- g) Amy Siebert – referral from the Water Pollution Control Authority
- h) Lynne Noyes - referral with various technical changes
- i) Geoffrey Morris - referral from the Economic & Community Development Commission

10. Planning future CRC agendas/calendar

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. (Tracker: Tab A Items 1-3)

Items for subsequent discussion and possible vote on March 16, 2023, will include the proposals from the Board of Finance, a recommended change to Section 10.1 (c) from Mr. Lordi, recommended change to Section 10.1 (d) from Mr. Wehking and the review of correspondences referenced in item 9 of these minutes.

Items for discussion on March 23, 2023, will include the review of recommended change to Section 5-7 from the Commission for Accessibility and Mr. O'Brien's recommendation that the CRC review why existing committees are not enumerated in the Town Charter. The CRC calendar will be reviewed, and the creation of a draft report will be discussed.

Items for subsequent discussion and possible vote on March 23, 2023, will include Mr. Zagorec's review of the various references in the Charter to Connecticut General Statutes.

11. Minutes – review and approval

Motion to approve as amended the minutes of the March 2, 2023, meeting by Mr. Cascella, seconded by Mr. Rettger. Motion carries 9 to 0 in favor.

12. Adjourn

Motion to adjourn at 9:49 p.m. by Mr. Schirm, seconded by Mr. Lansen. Motion carries 9 to 0 in favor.

Respectfully submitted,
Mike Lordi, Recording Secretary

* Tracker: The Change Request Tracker is a document that lists recommended changes received by the CRC.