

TOWN OF SOMERS
Charter Revision Commission
Meeting Minutes
February 18, 2025
6:30 PM, following Public Hearing
Selectmen's Conference Room

1. Call to Order

Chair Scott Kaupin called the meeting to order at 6:53 pm.

2. Members Present

Thomas Clark, Edward DePeau, Scott Kaupin, Kathryn Lerz, Michael Marinaccio, John Parks and Theresa Schmidt; and Town Hall liaison Karen Neal.

3. Approval of Minutes from February 5, 2025.

John Parks moved to approve the minutes with a correction to Kathryn's name, seconded by Tom Clark. Unanimous decision followed.

4. Public Hearing Discussion

The commission was pleased with the turnout and discussed the comments.

5. Previous Charter Revision Commission Decisions and Results

The 2018 Charter Revision Commission recommendations will be shared via email and Michael Marinaccio shared the differences between the charge for 2018 Charter Revision Commission and the present charge.

Discussed what was shared and Chair Kaupin commented that this is an opportunity to learn from the past.

6. Establish Review of Charter Process and Meeting Format

Discussed whether we should methodically go through the Charter or go through the recommendations from the Board of Selectmen and other topics that were brought up. The members recognize that there is a limited time frame to study and provide revision recommendations. So will keep it simple and start with the recommendations and review some of the items that are brought up in the time we have as well as methodically review the Charter.

Members agree to meet for no more than 2 hours as a guide with an understanding that some meetings may require less time and others more.

7. Recommendations from the Board of Selectmen

- a. Shall the Town Clerk become an appointed rather than elected position?

Reviewed information that Michael Marinaccio. Discussed that it would be good to interview towns that recently moved to an appointed Town Clerk. Identified three towns of Willington, Eastford, and Hebron that are closely like us. Next meeting will formulate a group of questions to conduct interviews with. Will invite our Town Clerk, Dave Marti, to the next meeting.

- b. Shall the Board of Selectmen appoint a Town Administrator who reports to them and oversees the day-to-day operations of the Town?

Discussed that this will need more time for this. Ellington switched to having a Town Administrator with a First Selectman a year or so ago. Tom Clark knows the Town Administrator, Matt Reed, and will contact him. The members suggested Tom invite him and Lori Spielman, First Selectman, to the March 26th meeting.

8. Commission Member Comments

There were no further member comments

9. Adjournment

Thomas Clark moved to adjourn at 8:07 pm, Michael Marinaccio seconded, followed by a unanimous decision.

Respectfully submitted,

Theresa Schmidt
Secretary, Charter Revision Commission