

TOWN OF SOMERS
Charter Revision Commission
Meeting Minutes
April 23, 2025
6:00 PM
Selectmen's Conference Room

1. Call to Order

Chair Scott Kaupin called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

2. Members Present: Thomas Clark, Edward DePeau, Scott Kaupin, Kathryn Lerz, John Parks, and Theresa Schmidt, and Town Hall liaison Karen Neal.

Members Absent: Michael Marinaccio

Guests: Tim Keeney, First Selectman; David Marti, Town Clerk; and Todd Rolland, Director of Land Use and Public Works.

3. Approval of Minutes

April 9, 2025 Meeting

Tom Clark moved to approve the minutes, seconded by Kathryn Lerz. Unanimous decision by the other members followed.

4. Public Comment

There were no members of the general public in attendance and no communications were received.

5. Discussion – Other recommendations submitted to the Charter Revision Committee:

a. Dave Marti, Somers Town Clerk

i. Board of Selectman and Registrar of Voters change terms from 2 years to 4 years

Dave presented information that Registrars can serve 4-year terms as well as the breakdown of municipalities that have the Registrars serving 4 year terms. There is a lot of training that a Registrar must accomplish to be a Registrar, so he recommends to change the term to 4 years.

He suggests that the Selectmen should have longer terms but did not have the breakdown for the Selectmen terms of office in Connecticut.

- ii. When an elected member of a board or commission resigns, the person appointed to fill the vacancy is to end of the term versus until the next election

Dave shared that at numerous conferences and trainings the Secretary of State office recommends for charter towns to change the vacancy appointee to serve to the end of the term instead of until the next election with an election of a person to serve the rest of the term. This is suggested as there have been numerous errors in the past. Dave presented a present example for the Town of Somers and two errors that have been made over the recent years that they are now trying to rectify. He also presented how complicated the ballot was for 2023 Board of Finance as there were 2 vacancies to be filled with different terms as well as a full 6 year term.

Commission members discussed the different points brought up by Dave. There was agreement to continue to think about the Registrar of Voter term and to change the appointment to fill a vacancy to the end of term until the next meeting.

- b. Civil Preparedness Changes submitted by Todd Rolland regarding section 5-18 Emergency Preparedness Advisory Council

Todd Roland reviewed the current charter regarding Emergency Preparedness Advisory Council and suggested to update the language to make it consistent from “civil” to “emergency” as well as update a title and include the CERT Team Leader which was not in existence at the time.

Charter Revision Commission members see the need for the consistency and update.

- c. Dave McCaffrey – Recommendation regarding the Veterans Affairs Department (May 7th Meeting)

Scott received a memo from Dave McCaffrey withdrawing his recommendations regarding the Veterans Affairs Department.

6. Discussion – Recommendations from the Charter Revision Commission Members

Members reviewed the Charter section by section. It was noted that 5-10 Board of Fire Commissioners section remained with a note that it was repealed in 2016 so the section need’s an edit to remove the language. Members had no other new recommendations to suggest.

Next meeting, resolutions regarding recommendations shared today will be brought forward for a vote.

7. Commission Member Comments

Discussed the need for the Town Attorney at the next meeting to guide the preparation of recommendations for public hearing. Scott will contact town attorney Carl Landolina. We have two scheduled meetings in May and as we prepare, we can judge when to schedule the public hearing.

8. Adjournment

Theresa Schmidt moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:12 pm, seconded by Ed DePeau, and followed by a unanimous decision.

Respectfully submitted,

Theresa Schmidt

Secretary, Charter Revision Commission