

TOWN OF SOMERS
Charter Revision Commission
Meeting Minutes
March 26, 2025
6:00 PM
Selectmen's Conference Room



1. Call to Order:

Chair Scott Kaupin called the meeting to order at 6:11 pm.

2. Roll Call:

Members Present: Thomas Clark, Edward DePeau, Scott Kaupin, Kathryn Lerz, Michael Marinaccio, and John Parks; and Town Hall Liaison Karen Neal

Members Absent: Theresa Schmidt

Guests: Matthew Reed, Ellington Town Administrator, Lori Spielman, Ellington First Selectman, and Tim Keeney, Somers First Selectman.

3. Approval of Minutes:

- a. March 12, 2025, Regular Meeting
Thomas Clark moved to approve the minutes, seconded by Kathryn Lerz.
Unanimous decision followed.

4. Recommendation from the Board of Selectmen Discussion

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

Members had the opportunity to provide additional comments regarding this recommendation from the Board of Selectman. John Parks mentioned his discussions with the Vernon Town Clerk, which focused on the certification modules that are required for Town Clerks to complete. The certification modules have been offered by the State of Connecticut over several years, which does not allow all new Town Clerks to complete them in one year. All the members present felt comfortable moving forward to the next item and proceeding to a vote.

5. Resolution regarding Recommendation #1 – Shall the Town Clerk become an appointed rather than an elected position?

Resolution: Be it resolved that the Somers Charter Revision Commission approves of the recommendation of the Board of Selectmen that the Somers Town Clerk shall become an appointed (hired) rather than an elected position.

Thomas Clark moved to approve the resolution, seconded by Edward DePeau. Unanimous decision followed.

6. Recommendation from the Board of Selectmen Discussion

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

The commission met with Matthew Reed, Ellington Town Administrator and Lori Spielman, Ellington First Selectman. A general discussion was held regarding the process and outcomes that occurred in Ellington during the transition to a First Selectman / Town Administrator form of government. Town Administrator Reed handed out to the commission a pamphlet created by the Town of Ellington regarding the proposed charter changes. The consensus is that it has been a positive change for the Town of Ellington.

The commission then met Tim Keeney, Somers First Selectman. A general discussion was held with First Selectman Keeney regarding his current experiences and credentials, and the possible job functions and assignments with a Board of Selectman / Town Administrator form of government in Somers. First Selectman Keeney handed out a document listing the possible functions and duties to be assumed by the Town Administrator, and those to be retained by the First Selectman.

7. Recommendation from the Board of Selectmen Discussion

- a. Shall the Zoning and Planning Boards be combined as a single appointed body?

This item will be discussed at the Wednesday, April 9th meeting of the commission. Commission members will work to identify potential guests from neighboring towns and invite them to the meeting to discuss their experiences with combined Planning and Zoning Boards.

8. Discussion – Recommendations from Charter Revision Commission Members

No further discussion was held.

9. Commission Member Comments

No further comments.

10. Adjournment

Thomas Clark moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:19 p.m., seconded by Michael Marinaccio. Unanimous decision followed.

Respectfully submitted,

Scott Kaupin

Chair, Charter Revision Commission