

Town of Somers

**Charter Revision Commission**

Public Hearing Notes

Monday, September 10, 2012

Commission Members Present: T.Potrikus, L.Roberts, E.Ness, R.Williams, and W.McGurk.

The Public Hearing was called to order at approximately 7:00 pm by T.Potrikus, Chairman. Mr. Potrikus explained that this is the first of two scheduled public hearings for Charter Revision. The second public hearing will be on October 10, 2012 beginning at 7:00 pm in the Somers Town Hall auditorium. The Commission was here this evening to hear comments and/or recommendations from the citizens of Somers. Based on the public hearing comments/recommendations, the commission will then begin their substantive work on potential charter changes. Any potential changes would be to be approved by the Board of Selectmen and the changes would then be voted upon by the citizens of Somers at the election in November, 2013. The Board of Selectmen had presented to the Commission a listing of items which were suggested to be reviewed and are not advocating for the acceptance of any of the items listed. (copies were distributed) There were approximately 11 citizens in attendance.

The following individuals spoke:

**D.Thayer**

- a. Advocated for the changing of the Civil Preparedness membership criteria – currently, the charter dictates that all appointees shall be electors and citizens of the Town of Somers – it should be changed to state that the ‘position’ dictates the membership and that alternates to the members be appointed and have voting privileges
- b. The Vendor Hawker ordinance should not be eliminated but strengthened so that individuals selling products door-to-door would have to comply with strict guidelines including the presentation of identification issued by the Town of Somers.
- c. Agreed with lowering the length of term from 6 years to 4 years
- d. Explained that there are both pros and cons to term limitations and had opinions on both

**D.Fedorowich**

- a. Did not agree with the combination of the planning and zoning commissions
- b. Did not agree with term limitations

**H.Broer**

- a. Wanted confirmation that comments could be submitted to the Commission via email

**E.Brown**

- a. Not in agreement with the combining of the planning and zoning commissions – felt that it has worked very well to this point and did not feel a change was necessary
- b. Suggested that both the planning and zoning commission members may be elected
- c. Agreed that the length of term may be changed from 6 years to 4 years
- d. Does not suggest that the ‘Tag Sale’ ordinance be eliminated – she believes that many citizens, should the ordinance be eliminated, would be having sales at their homes on a continual basis and that is not what we want to have in our neighbors
- e. Wanted to know if the Commission’s report would be on file for citizens to review – T.Potrikus confirmed that any information would be available to the citizens either in town hall or on the website

**P.Lesniak**

- a. Would not agree with having the planning and zoning commissions combined – believes that currently it is now a checks and balances for each other and developers

**D.Pinney**

- a. Believes that the Commission should consider term limitations
- b. Agrees with the length of term should be changed from 6 years to 4 years
- c. Does not agree with the First Selectmans’ term being changed – should remain at 2 years
- d. The Town of Somers may not be ready for a town manager form of government, but people should look at the Board of Education and Superintendent which act currently as a town manager form of government. Believed that it may occur in the future.

There were no other comments/recommendations from the citizens in attendance. T.Potrikus closed the Public Hearing at approximately 7:25 pm.