

TOWN OF SOMERS
Charter Revision Commission

MINUTES

May 2, 2018

7:00 p.m.

Town Hall Lower Conference Room

Present: Bob Chester; Ann Logan, Town Clerk; Andy Rockett;
Terri Schmidt; Graham Van Keuren; Ralph Williams

1. Call to Order
 - a. Meeting called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Andy Rockett
2. Minutes Approval
 - a. Motion to approve minutes of 4/11/18 and 4/18/18: Schmidt; Second: Van Keuren. Motion passes, 4 in favor, none opposed, 1 abstained (Williams).
3. Subcommittee Presentation
 - a. The Land Use Subcommittee (Rockett, Schmidt, Van Keuren) reported their findings, and the committee discussed advantages and disadvantages of combining the Commissions, and whether they should continue to be appointed positions or elected, and the number of members of the Zoning Commission. Various possible options discussed at length. Input received from questionnaire on town web site reviewed as part of this discussion.
 - i. Charge from BOS: Shall the Zoning and Planning Boards be combined into one appointed/elective body?
 1. Motion to retain the existing structure of separate Planning and Zoning Commissions: Williams. Second: Schmidt. Motion passes, 5-0.
 - ii. Charge from BOS: Shall the Zoning and Planning Commissions be appointed or elected?
 1. Motion to retain the existing method of having members of the Zoning Commission and Planning Commission be appointed to their positions: Van Keuren; Second: Chester. Motion passes, 5-0.
 - iii. Charge from BOS: Shall the number of members on the Zoning Commission be revised? Motion to retain the existing structure of a 5-member Zoning Commission: Schmidt; Second: Van Keuren. Motion passes, 4 in favor (Chester, Rockett, Schmidt, Van Keuren), 1 opposed (Williams).
 - b. The Charter Revision Commission discussed our calendar, and set the following internal schedule, in compliance with our published calendar of meetings:

- May 9th: Consideration of miscellaneous provisions of the Charter, including the town meeting, change in length of office for the Registrars and other offices, gender-neutral language, etc.
- May 16th: Consideration of BOS Charges 1 & 2 (Town Clerk, Board of Selectmen/Town Manager), including presentations;
- May 23rd: Further consideration of and recommendation for BOS Charges 1 & 2.
- May 30th: General discussion, review draft of report
- June 6th: Public Hearing
- June 13th: General discussion, revision as appropriate based on Public Hearing
- June 20th: Reserved
- June 27th: Reserved

4. Citizen Feedback Update

- a. Citizen Feedback was discussed and presented under 3a above.
5. Motion to Adjourn: Williams; Second: Chester. Motion passes 5-0. Meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.