

TOWN OF SOMERS
Charter Revision Commission
Meeting Minutes
May 21, 2025
6:00 PM
Selectmen's Conference Room

1. Call to Order

Chair Scott Kaupin called the meeting to order at 6:04 pm.

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

Members Absent: Edward DePeau

3. Approval of Minutes

May 7, 2025 Meeting

One correction noted in Kathryn's name in approval of minutes section.

Thomas Clark moved to approve the minutes, seconded by Kathryn Lerz. John Parks abstained with unanimous decision by the other members present followed.

4. Public Comment

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

5. Discussion & Resolution – Additional recommendations:

- a) Chapter 6-7 Special Appropriations – Proposed language change to be presented to the commission at our June 4th meeting.

Discussion – Michael Marinaccio shared a draft of the change that has been shared with Town Attorney Landolina. It was noted that Landolina highlighted some of the wording in the explanatory text that he was concerned with. The commission discussed further. Michael still needs to bring this to the Board of Finance so we will formerly vote on this at the June 4th meeting.

6. Working Session – review and prepare draft of recommended charter language changes and explanatory text that addresses recommended changes approved by the commission.

Michael Marinaccio and Scott Kaupin provided a draft of ballot questions and explanatory text that was reviewed question by question by members and earlier by Attorney Carl Landolina. We will have three sections, the question, explanatory text, and the reasonings behind. Michael would like commission members input to the wording of the explanatory texts.

7. Working Session – review and prepare draft of presentation for Public Hearing and to the Board of Selectmen.

Scott's expectation of the Charter Revision Commission members for the Public Hearing is that each member address one of the recommendations and present it. Everyone should review their assigned question's explanatory text and redraft, come up with the reasons for it, and then send out to commission members by Monday, June 2nd in preparation for the June 4th Charter Revision Commission meeting.

Michael brought up that in regard to the Emergency Preparedness question the Connecticut State Statutes still reflect Civil Preparedness and Emergency Preparedness. We should ask Todd Roland about specifics for need for change. Terri Schmidt will connect with Todd and get back to the commission.

The following was assigned –

Ballot Question 1: Town Clerk – Theresa Schmidt
Ballot Question 2: Town Administrator – Thomas Clark
Ballot Question 3: Planning & Zoning – John Parks
Ballot Question 4: Appropriations amount – Michael Marinaccio
Ballot Question 5: Mid-Term Vacancies – Ed DePeau
Ballot Question 6: Emergency Preparedness – Kathryn Lerz

The one thing we do not have in here is the recommended ordinance change for the Registrar of Voters to a 4 year term instead of a 2 year term that will be made to the Board of Selectmen.

8. Discussion – Efforts to publicize the Public Hearing

Need to put the date out on the visual boards, the town website, and the email and text alerts. Karen Neal will prepare the notice to be published.

9. Commission Member Comments

No commission comments.

10. Adjournment

Tom Clark moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:20 pm, seconded by Theresa Schmidt, and followed by a unanimous decision.

Respectfully submitted,

Theresa Schmidt
Secretary, Charter Revision Commission