

TOWN OF SOMERS
Charter Revision Commission
Public Hearing

Minutes
June 11, 2025
7:00 PM
Town Hall Auditorium

Commission Members: Thomas Clark, Edward DePeau, Scott Kaupin, Kathryn Lerz, Michael Marinaccio, John Parks, and Theresa Schmidt

Also in attendance: Karen Neal, Assessor & Liaison to Charter Revision Commission

1. Call to Order

Chair Scott Kaupin called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

2. Presentation

Chair Scott Kaupin had David Marti, Somers Town Clerk read the public hearing notice, and then introduced each Commission member. The chair then gave a short presentation on the statutory requirements along with the work of the Commission since the February 19, 2025 Public Hearing and gave the summary of the Commission recommendations.

3. Public Hearing

Chair Scott Kaupin informed the public that each Commission member was going to take a recommendation and share the reasoning behind it. After each recommendation reasoning is shared then it will be open for public comment, and he shared the guidelines. At the end of the presentations are completed there will be one last opportunity for public comment. The Commission has received two emails with opinions from Mark Traceski and Elizabeth Traceski.

Question 1 "Shall the Town Clerk become an appointed rather than elected position?" Commission member Theresa Schmidt presented the reasonings behind recommending support.

Residents David Marti (Town Clerk), Katherine Mashiak, Ralph Williams, Sean Curtis, and David Pinney shared their comments and opinions.

Question 2 "Shall the Board of Selectmen appoint a Town Administrator who reports to them and oversees the day-to-day operations of the Town? Commission member Thomas Clark presented the reasonings behind recommending support.

Residents Sean Curtis, David Pinney, Ralph Williams, Kimberly Conlin Quirk, and David Marti shared their comments and opinions.

Question 3 “Shall the Planning and Zoning Commission be combined to a single appointed body?” Commission member John Parks presented the reasonings behind recommending support.

Residents Austin Spence, Ralph Williams, Kathryn Mashiak, David Marti, Vicki Clark, Kimberly Conlin Quirk, Sean Curtis and Joan Rivard shared their comments and opinions.

Question 4 “Shall the dollar amount over which a special appropriation exceeds thus requiring approval by vote of a Town Meeting be revised?” Commission member Michael Marinaccio presented the reasonings behind recommending support for the revision.

Residents David Marti, Kathryn Mashiak, and Vicki Clark shared their comments and opinions.

Question 5 “Shall an appointee to a vacancy in an elective office serve for the remainder of the elected term rather than until the next election?” Commission member Ed DePeau presented the reasonings behind recommending support for the revision.

Residents David Marti and Ralph Williams shared their comments and opinions.

The last recommendation is for an Ordinance change where the Commission recommends the Board of Selectmen adopt an Ordinance changing the term of office for the Registrar of Voters to four (4) years from two (2) years. Commission member Kathryn Lerz presented the reasoning behind this.

Resident and Registrar of Voters David McCaffrey endorsed this change.

Chair Scott Kaupin then reviewed next steps before opening up for final comments from the public.

Residents David McCaffrey, First Selectman Tim Keeny, David Marti, Kimberly Conlin Clark, Joan Rivard, Sean Curtis, Ralph Williams, Jamie Rheinberger, and Linda Robbiati shared comments.

The hearing was closed at 8:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Theresa Schmidt
Secretary, Charter Revision Commission