

From: Susan Mazurski May 17, 2011 9:44:40 AM
Subject: Charter Revision Commission Minutes 05/10/2011 Public
Hearing
To: SimsburyCT_CharRevComm
Cc:

CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
May 10, 2011

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Robert Heagney called the regular meeting of the Charter Revision Commission to order at 7:04 P. M. in the Program Room at Simsbury Public Library. The following members were also present: Darren Cunningham, Jim Fleming, Brad Mead, John O'Neil, Peter Pabich, and Dave Ryan. Also present was Lisa Gray, Commission Clerk, and other interested parties.

II. PUBLIC AUDIENCE

Bob Duguay expressed his view that every town meeting should include a public audience. He also suggested an ombudsman as an intermediary between residents and government.

Mike Rinaldi, 32 Pinnacle Mountain Road, expressed his belief that Section 205, pertaining to filling vacancies on the Board of Selectmen, should be changed in light of recent issues that have occurred.

Joan Coe urged the Commission to keep an open mind when listening to public comment regarding the topic of a Town Manager. She stated her reasons she is in favor of a Town Manager form of government. She also suggested town meetings to vote on budget items be eliminated.

Emil Dahlquist, Chairman of the Design Review Board, distributed a letter requesting that the Design Review Board be covered under Chapter 7 of the Town Charter.

Robert Kalechman stated he is in favor of a Town Manager form of government and his belief that corporation counsel be present at each town meeting. He also suggested a provision for Ethics be included in the Town Charter, and urged the Commission to strive to bring all the town's boroughs together under "Simsbury" when revising the charter.

Mike Rinaldi recommended that Section 303 Election and Term of Office be amended to reflect the Probate Court's transition to a multi-town probate district.

John Carroll, 31 Terry's Plain Road, stated his support for the Design Review Board being included in Chapter 7.

Robert Kalechman reiterated his belief that the town should be run by a Town Manager.

Mike Rinaldi suggested that Chapter 5, pertaining to Town Meetings, be revised to reflect that town meetings are to be informative, but that votes should not be conducted at the town meetings. Items requiring a vote should be sent to referendum.

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Hearing no further comments, Chairman Heagney closed the Public Audience portion of the meeting.

A motion was made by Commissioner Cunningham to adjourn the Public Hearing. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Ryan, and unanimously carried.

Chairman Heagney asked Commission members to review the Town Charter and bring their suggestions for revisions to the next meeting.

III. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Commissioner Ryan to adjourn the meeting at 7:46 PM.

Brad Mead, Secretary