

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Hadley Rose called the Special Meeting of the Simsbury Charter Revision Commission to order at 7:02 p.m. on Thursday, October 1, 2015. The meeting was held in the Board of Education Conference Room of the Simsbury Town Offices located at 933 Hopmeadow Street, Simsbury, CT. In attendance were the following commission members: Jeff Tindall, Mary Glassman, Robert K. Crowther, Melissa Osborne, Thomas Benneche, Paul W. Henault, James Ray, Anita L. Mielert and Edward J. Pabich. Staff included Director of Administrative Services Thomas Cooke and Town Attorney Robert DeCrescenzo.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

All stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

**PUBLIC HEARING**

Ms. Joan Coe, a candidate for First Selectman and a 40-year-resident of Simsbury, stated why the town needs to change from a First Selectman to a Town Manager government. She mentioned that Simsbury is one of the last remaining towns with a First Selectman. Ms. Coe added that the consultants hired to review town government recommended a professional Town Manager for Simsbury. She recommended the Commission to view a documentary on YouTube discussing the Council-Manager form of local government and the need for professional management.

Mr. Alan Needham, 2 Basswood Lane, requested that the Commission address three topics: Public Audience, Planning and Zoning Commissions and Design Review Board. He recommends that the Commission permits a public audience rather than a public hearing. Mr. Needham provided different examples and said it was a great tool for the public to vent any frustration. Mr. Needham urges the Commission not to join the Planning and Zoning Commissions because of all the work involved. He encouraged the Commission to concentrate on the tasks related to the Charter Revision. Mr. Needham commented that he would like the Design Review Board to return to its former status of an award-winning group. He said the Design Review Board role is that of advisory because it is currently dominated by the Zoning Commission.

**ACTION ITEMS**

**a. Approval of Minutes**

- Changes to Minutes of Special Meeting on August 31, 2015 are as follows:

The first sentence: Replace “regular meeting” with “Special Meeting”

Under “Action Items” Headline, the sentence should read as follows: As for the secretary position, Ms. Glassman suggested a newer member who might be interested in serving.

**The Minutes were unanimously consented with changes.**

- Minutes from Special Meeting of September 21, 2015 was unanimously consented. Mary Glassman abstained from the vote since she did not attend the meeting.

**b. Approval of Regular Meetings Schedule through March of 2016 was unanimously consented regarding dates and times.**

**c. Agenda Items for Next Scheduled Meeting**

The Commission agreed on holding the next Special Meetings on October 15 and October 29 at 5:30 p.m. The agenda topics for October 21 will include Neutrality, Context of Public Notice for the Budget and Budget Prep and Budget Referendum. Commissioner Rose asked Mr. Cooke to obtain Charters from other towns for the Commission to review.

The Agenda topics for October 29 will include items not covered in the October 21<sup>st</sup> meeting as well as Permanent Committees. Other topics will require reviewing before making a decision.

**ADJOURN**

Commissioner Rose adjourned the meeting at 7:20 p.m. and it was unanimously approved.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Irene Muench