

From: Carolyn Keily August 12, 2011 2:04:22 PM
Subject: Charter Revision Commission Minutes 08/09/2011
To: SimsburyCT_CharRevComm
Cc:

CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
August 9, 2011

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Robert Heagney called the regular meeting of the Charter Revision Commission to order at 7:10 P. M. in Room 103 at Simsbury Town Hall. The following members were also present: Darren Cunningham, Brad Mead, John O'Neil, Peter Pabich, and Dave Ryan. Also present was Robert DeCrescenzo, Town Attorney, and Lisa Gray, Commission Clerk, and other interested parties.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

All present recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. PUBLIC AUDIENCE

Robert Kalechman spoke to request an amendment to Section 402 of the Town Charter, "Presiding Officers' Organizations & Procedures", which pertains to election by the Board of Selectmen of a Deputy First Selectman to serve in the absence or incapacitation of the First Selectman. Mr. Kalechman recommended that the position of Deputy First Selectman be elected by voters.

Mr. Kalechman also requested that the town's government become more "open" with an amendment to Sections 603 and 701, setting term limits on commission appointments.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Commissioner Ryan to approve the minutes of the July 26, 2011 meeting, with a correction that then name "John Stewart" should be changed to "John Carroll". The motion was seconded by Commissioner O'Neil, and passed unanimously.

V. IDENTIFICATION OF NEW ACTIONABLE ITEMS

Robert DeCrescenzo reported on his investigation into applications which have been heard by both the Planning and Zoning Commissions. He reported that, since January 12, 2010, six matters went before both commissions, two of which were applications by property owners. Fifty-eight matters were considered by the Zoning Commission, but not the Planning Commission. In his opinion, separation of the two boards does not appear to create any undue process on the part of property owners seeking permits.

Mr. DeCrescenzo also distributed a memorandum regarding scheduling meetings with Simsbury appointed and elected boards and commissions. The commission discussed the memo and further fine-tuned the schedule of upcoming meetings and those commissions who are invited to appear at each.

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Pertaining to the discussion initiated during the Public Audience portion of the meeting, Chairman Heagney advised that the commission review the language in the charter regarding who acts in the absence of the First Selectman.

Mr. DeCrescenzo distributed a chart from the Connecticut Conference of Municipalities which depicts appointed vs. Elected Land Use Boards/Commissions, and a letter dated June 7, 2002 pertaining to towns in Connecticut which have exempted themselves from zoning regulations.

VI. INVITED GUEST

Michael Long, Chairman of the Police Commission, appeared to report that his commission will review the charter and advise this commission if they have any comments or contributions.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Commissioner Pabich to adjourn the meeting at 8:13 PM.

Brad Mead, Secretary

