

From: Carolyn Keily December 22, 2011 12:56:54 PM
Subject: Charter Revision Commission Minutes 12/13/2011
To: SimsburyCT_CharRevComm
Cc:

CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
December 13, 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 Room 103 at Simsbury Town Hall, 933 Hopmeadow Street. The following members were also present: Darren Cunningham, James Fleming, Brad Mead, John O'Neill, and Dave Ryan. Also present were members of the Board of Assessment Appeals, Conservation Commission, and Zoning Board of Appeals; Attorney Robert DeCrescenzo; Lisa Gray, Commission Clerk; and other interested parties.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

All present recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. PUBLIC AUDIENCE

None

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Commissioner O'Neill to approve the minutes of the November 22, 2011 meeting, as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Ryan, and passed unanimously.

V. INVITED GUESTS

Attorney DeCrescenzo distributed a letter from Paul Gilmore, a member of the Water Pollution Control Authority (WPCA), expressing the Authority's satisfaction with the current charter.

Peter Stempien, Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) Chairman, commented about the WPCA's schedule of regular meetings. In particular, he referred to an issue in 2010 in which he was working with a developer who needed a decision from WPCA, but, because the issue was raised in June, a time of

year when WPCA doesn't normally meet, WPCA refused to meet and forced the developer to wait until the next regularly scheduled meeting in September. He wondered if the charter could require boards/commissions to meet whenever an issue arose that required action.

Chairman Stempien also requested that ZBA member terms be returned to six years, as they have been in the past. He stressed the importance of experienced, knowledgeable members to make difficult legal decisions regarding hardship. As a former member of ZBA, Mr. Mead concurred with Chairman Stempien's views.

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Marjorie Winters, Vice Chairman, Conservation Commission, expressed her dissatisfaction with the fact that her commission is never asked for its input or advice by the Planning and Zoning department and commissions when they are considering proposed developments in the town.

Board of Assessment Appeals member, Dennis Fallon, asked if he and other members could appear at the December 27 meeting. His request was granted.

John O'Neill, Town Meeting Moderator, talked about options for modifying, or even eliminating, the position of Town Meeting Moderator. He felt any modifications, however, would require significant written changes to the Town Meeting sections of the Charter.

Attorney DeCrescenzo commented on Section 508(c) that requires the Town Meeting Moderator to hold a public hearing on the Town Meeting rules and regulations on the second Tuesday in January of even-numbered years. He felt this is too restrictive and suggested that it be changed. He also said he will work on modifications to all areas of the charter pertaining to the Town Meeting Manager and Town Meeting and present a draft at the next meeting.

Attorney DeCrescenzo distributed Proposed Revisions to Sections 903, 904, 905, 907, 908, 911, and 509; a draft of new Section 717, Pension and Other Post Employment Benefit Board; and a draft of the commission's Final Report.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Commissioner O'Neill to adjourn the meeting at 8:35

PM.

Brad Mead, Secretary