

Charter Revision Commission, Commissions Subcommittee Minutes

November 15, 2022

Present: Jay Ginsberg, Wayne Blair

Excused: Mark Salerno

The meeting was called to order at 7:12 PM

Election of Chair: Postponed until the full subcommittee is present

Work Discussion:

1. Regarding Charter Revision Commission charge #2 (*Consider possible merger of the Planning and Zoning Commission*): the subcommittee members felt we needed more information about the functions of Planning and Zoning in order reach a conclusion.
 - a. **Action Plan:** Mr. Blair will contact Planning Department to get more information. Dr. Ginsberg will contact Zoning Department for more information.
2. Regarding Charter Revision Commission charge #3 (*Consider possible amendment of Section 2.7 to provide four-year terms of Selectmen and two- or four-year terms of First Selectman*): after discussion of the pros and cons of such a change the members of the subcommittee felt we needed to get a better idea of whether there would be any recommended changes to town governance before reaching a consensus on this issue.
 - a. **Action Plan:** The subcommittee will revisit this issue after hearing from the Governance Subcommittee.
3. Regarding Charter Revision Commission charge #12 (*Consider the possible amendment of Section 2.5.4 to provide that an appointee to a vacancy in an elective office shall serve the remainder of the term that was filled.*): The subcommittee discussed the pros and cons of this change. To improve accountability, prevent confusion as to who fills an office, and reduce the number of special elections, the subcommittee felt this change was warranted.
 - a. **Action Plan:** The subcommittee recommends Section 2.5.4 of the charter be amended to provide that an appointee to a vacancy in an elective office serve the remainder of the term that was filled.
4. Regarding Charter Revision Commission charge #13 (*Consider reinstating the Conservation Commission which will be comprised of members from both the Inland Wetlands Agency and the Commission for the Conservation of Natural Resources.*): The subcommittee feels we need more information about the proposed function of a Conservation Commission. In addition, since a Conservation Commission is on the list of Commissions created by ordinance which we have been provided with, we need more information about the current status of the Conservation Commission.
 - a. **Action Plan:** Ask for a copy of the ordinance referring to a Conservation Commission.
 - b. **Action Plan:** Discuss with Inlands Wetlands Agency and Commission for the Conservation of Natural Resources their thoughts on such a commission.
5. Other potential charter revisions discussed:

RECEIVED FOR RECORD
EAST LYNN, VT
2022 DEC -5 11:50 AM
Caitlin M. Moore
TOWN CLERK

- a. Although not part of our charge, the subcommittee feels we should develop criteria that can be used to determine what Commissions should be included in the Charter and which should be created by ordinance.
 - i. **Action Plan:** Discuss with town attorney the ramifications of including Commissions in the charter as opposed to creating them by ordinance.
- b. The subcommittee discussed whether the charter should mandate a maximum time between reviews. Although we felt the Board of Selectman should have the authority to convene a Charter Review Commission at any time, we considered setting a maximum time between reviews to make sure that the Charter does not get out of date.
 - i. **Action Plan:** Further discussion is warranted.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 PM

Respectfully Submitted,
Jay Ginsberg