

Minutes of East Lyme Charter Revision Commission - 02/21/23

Date and time: 02/21/23 7:00 PM to: 02/21/23 7:04 PM

Present: Brooke Stevens, Recording Secretary, Marc Salerno, Vivek Puohit, Anna Johnson, Maryanna Stevens, Timothy Hagen, Wayne Blair, Barry Sheckley, Jay Ginsberg, Larry Fitzgerald, Jeffrey McNamara

CC: Sam Geary, Charter Revision Research Assistant, Rose Ann Hardy, Ex-Officio

Location: East Lyme Town Hall, Upper Conf. Room, 108 Pennsylvania Avenue, Niantic, CT

Link: <https://app.meetingking.com/meetings/392913>

Topics

1. Call to Order & Pledge

Note Chairman Salerno called the Regular Meeting of the East Lyme Charter Revision Commission to order at 7:01 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Approval of Minutes

2-1. Charter Revision February 7th, 2023, Regular Meeting Minutes

Note see attached minutes.

 [Minutes of East Lyme Charter Revision Commission 02 07 23.pdf](#)

Decision MOTION (1)

Mr. McNamara moved to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of February 7th, 2023, as presented.
Ms. Johnson seconded the motion.
Motion carried, 10-0-0.

RECEIVED FOR RECORD
EAST LYME, CT
2023 FEB 24 AM 9:23
Cassidy M. Salerno
TOWN CLERK

3. Ex-Officio Comments

Note Ms. Hardy said Mark Christensen from the Conservation of Natural Resources will be arriving shortly to discuss the possibility of reinstating the Conservation Commission. She had no other comments.

4. New Business

Note Mr. Salerno said he emailed everyone a copy of the spreadsheet, which tracks their progress so far; he will continue to update it as they move forward (attached.)

Note Mr. Salerno said they did receive some information from Mr. Geary at the request of the Town Commissions Subcommittee, which they will be discussing when they break off into their respective subcommittee work; the Town Structure Subcommittee has no requests of Mr. Geary at this time, while the Town Budget Subcommittee has requests to discuss with Mr. Geary this evening.

Note Mr. Salerno said hopefully they will be able to close some of these items out at the next meeting.

4-1. Open Discussion on Charter Topics Not Covered by Subcommittees

Note There was no discussion.

5. Old Business

5-1. Town Commissions

Note The Town Commissions Subcommittee will focus on items #2, #3, #12 & #13- Consider possible merger of the Planning Commission and Zoning Commission. Consider possible amendment of Section 2.7 to provide four-year terms of Selectmen and two- or four-year terms of First Selectman. Consider the possible amendment of Section 2.5.411o to provide that an appointee to a vacancy in an elective office shall serve the remainder of the term that was filled. 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

Note The Town Commissions Subcommittee had nothing to report.

5-2. Town Structure

Note The Town Structure Subcommittee will focus on items #4, #5, & #10- Consider possible removal of Town Clerk and Tax Collector from elective offices and add said offices to administrative offices. Consider the possible exemption from the residency requirement set forth in Section 4.1 .2, certain appointive offices, such as Director of Emergency Management, Dog Warden, etc., and the offices described in Sections 5.3- 5.7. Consider the possible addition of an appointive officer named the "Operations Officer" to assist the First Selectman in the performance of his or her administrative duties. This group will also look into the concept of a town manager government system, and the cleanup of appointed Board(s) language. Housekeeping item- Relegation of Tax Appeals to the Town Assessor.

Note The Town Structure Subcommittee had nothing to report.

5-3. Town Budget

Note The focus of the Town Budget Subcommittee are items #1 , #7, #8, & #9- Consider possible elimination of automatic budget referendum provision in Section 7.3 of the Charter. Consider the possible amendment of Section 6.3.4 to provide that if the Board of Finance does not act on requests for special appropriations or transfers of funds within specified time, the result is an automatic approval. Consider the possible amendment of Section 6.3 to provide that projects funded entirely by grants from the State of Connecticut which do not require an appropriation of town funds need not be approved by the Board of Finance or at a Town Meeting. Consider the possible amendment of Section 6.3,1 to provide that the current dollar threshold of \$10,000 for special town meetings be raised.

Note The Town Budget Subcommittee had nothing to report.

6. Public Delegations

Note There were none.

7. Adjournment

Decision MOTION (2)

Mr. McNamara moved to adjourn the January 21st, 2023, Regular Meeting of the Charter Revision Commission at 7:04 p.m.

Mr. Hagen seconded the motion.

Motion carried, 10-0-0.

Note The next Regular Meeting of the Charter Revision Commission is scheduled for March 7th, 2023.

Note A Town Commissions Subcommittee meeting, Town Structure Subcommittee meeting, and Town Budget Subcommittee meeting immediately followed.

Note Respectfully Submitted,
Brooke Stevens, Recording Secretary