

Minutes of Charter Revision Commission Special Meeting - 06/21/23

Date and time: 06/21/23 08:10 pm to: 06/21/23 08:34 pm

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

CC: Tracy Collins, Town Attorney

Location: East Lyme Town Hall, Conf. #1, 108 Pennsylvania Avenue, Niantic, CT 06357

Topics

1. Call to Order

Note: Chairman Salerno called the June 21st, 2023, Special Meeting of the East Lyme Charter Revision Commission at 8:14 p.m.

2. Approval of Meeting Minutes

2-1. June 6th, 2023, Public Hearing Meeting Minutes

Note: see attached minutes.

 [Minutes of The East Lyme Charter Revision Commission Public Hearing 06 06 23.pdf](#)

Decision: MOTION (1)

Ms. Johnson moved to approve the Public Hearing Minutes of June 6th, 2023, as submitted.
Mr. Ginsberg seconded the motion.
Motion carried, 10-0-0.

2-2. June 6th, 2023, Regular Meeting Minutes

Note: see attached minutes.

 [Minutes of Charter Revision Commission Regular Meeting 06 06 23.pdf](#)

Decision: MOTION (2)

Ms. Johnson moved to approve the Regular Minutes of June 6th, 2023, as submitted.
Mr. Ginsberg seconded the motion.
Motion carried, 10-0-0.

3. Discussion Re BOS Recommendations to CRC Re Proposed Charter Amendments

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The Commission discussed the four comments made by Board of Selectmen and some of the following remarks were made:

Mr. Salerno said the concerns regarding the automatic budget referendum are valid.

The referendum does allow people to be part of the government, even if it's only for 5 minutes.

Mr. Hagen pointed out that people were more concerned about what the cumulative amount would be.

Mr. McNamara said he's comfortable with this item not going forward, but he would like the minutes to reflect that the same 3 people attended each of the three public hearings, and this certainly wasn't a groundswell.

Mr. Ginsberg said this indicates that this is a hot topic, and he thinks they have other issues that are more important, and he doesn't want to put items forward that they know is going to get voted down.

Ms. Johnson added that it's better to know you're going to have the referendum and to plan for it.

When you're petitioned it, it really messes up the schedule, you risk not getting everything accomplished in a timely manner or getting the tax bills out on time.

Mr. Salerno pointed out that in terms of the 5%, they were never insinuating that the town should try to stick with a 4.9% increase to avoid a referendum; it was merely a threshold.

Mr. Blair said the index needs to reflect the rearranging of the rewriting of Section 1.4, as suggested by Anne Santoro.

Mr. Sheckley observed that the changes make it a cumbersome run-on sentence and Mr. Hagen said he thinks it's fine, it shows that it has been the work of many.

Ms. Collins noted they have to vote to accept or reject the recommendations and said they should consider this along with whether it captures their intent.

4. Vote to Accept or Reject BOS Recommendations

Decision MOTION (3)

Mr. McNamara moved they accept the Charter Revision recommendations of the Board of Selectmen.

Ms. Stevens seconded the motion.

Motion carried, 10-0-0.

5. Vote on CRC Final Report and Send to BOS

Decision MOTION (4)

Mr. McNamara moved to have Ms. Collins prepare the final draft report of the Charter Revision Commission incorporating the recommendations of the Board of Selectmen and to give Mr. Salerno the authority to review it and forward it on to the Board of Selectmen.

Ms. Stevens seconded the motion.

Motion carried, 10-0-0.

Note Mr. Salerno thanked everyone for their contributions and hard work.

Note The Commission profusely thanked Ms. Collins for all of her efforts.

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6. Adjournment

Decision MOTION (5)

Mr. McNamara moved to adjourn the Special as well as final meeting of the East Lyme Charter Revision Commission at 8:34 p.m.

Mr. Purohit seconded the motion.

Motion carried, 10-0-0.

Note Respectfully Submitted,
Brooke Stevens, Recording Secretary