

**Charter Revision Commission
Special Meeting
Draft Minutes March 12, 2015**

Chairman Matthew Berger called the meeting to order at 5:40pm. In attendance were Chairman Matthew Berger, Vice-Chairman Stephen Bessette, Sue Jones, Alice Soscia, Amy Hambly, Bob Statchen, Ashley Gillice. Gail Shea, James Murphy, and John Gomes were absent.

1. **Public Comment**
 - a. No public comment
2. **Old Business**
3. **Communications**
 - a. None.
4. **Old Business**
 - a. Housekeeping matters (broadly defined)

The commission discussed proposed changes by Ms. Shea regarding gender neutrality. Ms. Jones disagrees that the changes need to be made, Ms. Soscia agrees that the Charter should be updated to reflect the current time, Ms. Gillice expressed that she agrees with the changes if it can be consolidated into one question on the ballot. The rest of the commission is in agreement that the changes should be made but into one question.

Mr. Statchen moved to accept the changes to update his to their in sections, 3-6B, 9-7B, 3-4B#5, 8-2A and 9-7E, seconded by Ms. Soscia, all in favor 7-0, motion approved.

Mr. Statchen amended his motion to add the change to section 6.4 and 6.5 the term "chairman" to "chair" where appropriate, seconded by Mr. Bessette, all in favor 7-0, motion approved.

Mr. Bessette proposed a change regarding the sale of town owned real property or personal property to update the level to call a town meeting from \$5,000 to \$10,000.

Mr. Bessette moved to increase the value from \$5,000 to \$10,000 in section 3-3, 4-5C and 9-7D concerning the sale of town real and personal property, seconded by Mr. Statchen, all in favor 5-2, Ms. Hambly and Ms. Gillice opposed, motion approved.

- b. Wording for recommended changes approved to date

The commission discussed the timing of the submitted draft and public hearing. A revised draft will be circulated for the public prior to the public hearing. The public hearing will take place at the next regular meeting.

Mr. Statchen moved to accept the wording changes in the draft the was circulated with additional - changes voted on tonight, seconded by Ms. Soscia, all in favor 7-0, motion approved.

- c. Letter to Board of Selectmen

The commission discussed grammatical changes to the letter and incorporating the changes voted on this evening. Wording changes were discussed regarding unaffiliated voters. Wording changes were discussed regarding the five member Board of Selectmen.

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Mr. Berger moved to add a sentence that states, the commission did not review the five member Board of Selectmen since it was previously rejected by the Board, seconded by Mr. Bessette, all in favor 7-0, motion approved.

d. **Timing of completion of submission of CRC draft to Board of Selectmen**

Draft will be submitted immediately following the completion the public hearing unless significant changes are decided on at the hearing.

5. New Business

a. **Scheduling Public Hearing regarding Draft Report**

Public hearing will take place at the next regular meeting March 26th at 7:00pm.

6. Public Comment

Ms. Standish informed the commission the document can easily be published on the website.

The commission thanked the Westerly Sun reporter for her work and effort through the process.

Mr. Statchen moved to adjourn, seconded by Ms. Hambly, all in favor 7-0, meeting adjourned at 6:44pm.