

CHARTER COMMISSION

Robert Russell, Chairman
Michael Kaelin, Vice Chairman



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TOWN HALL
238 Danbury Road
Wilton, CT 06897

**CHARTER COMMISSION
November 25, 2008
Wilton Town Hall, Room B**

PRESENT: Robert Russell, Michael Kaelin, Alice Ayers, Marilyn Gould,
Louise Herot, Douglas Levene, Chris Weldon (arrived 7:40)
ABSENT: Paul Burnham, Toni Lee

Chairman Russell called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

Approval of Minutes:

Upon motion by Ms. Herot, the minutes of the 11/11/08 meeting were unanimously approved as presented.

Upon motion by Ms. Herot, the minutes of the 11/18/08 meeting were approved as amended (Mr. Levene and Mr. Weldon were not present at the 11/18/08 meeting). Mr. Levene abstained.

Summarize Decisions To Date: Mr. Russell advised that this Commission has held 13 meetings prior to tonight.

At the 10/2/08 meeting, the following were approved:

- a) Change the Board of Election procedure to be consistent with the way other boards and commissions are elected. It was suggested putting this amendment in Section C-60 "Board of Education Special Provisions".
- b) Retain the First Selectman position as under current Charter.
- c) Retain the Town Meeting form of government if the First Selectman position is retained as CEO.

- d) Make the election of the First Selectman separate from the election of other members of the Board of Selectmen.

Items for further discussion and/or public input:

- a) Should Selectmen make appointments for vacancies on Board of Education and Board of Finance or continue to let those boards fill their own vacancies until next election. Currently, if the boards do not fill a vacancy within 30 days, it reverts to the Selectmen.
- b) Term Length Limits for Selectman and Board of Selectmen and possibly staggered terms. This can get complicated as minority representation allows only three of one party. Only one town in the state has four year staggered terms – Columbia. There was a lengthy discussion of different scenarios if this was implemented. It was decided to get public input on this matter and discuss further.

Mr. Russell will send e-mails to boards and committees, inviting them to attend the December meeting. The public will also be invited to attend for input but it will not be an official public hearing.

Public opinion will also be invited on the subject of then number of signatures required on a petition to call a Town Meeting.

Discussion on forming subgroups for drafting sections of the Charter was postponed until final decisions are made.

Having no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Jan Andras
Recording Secretary
(minutes taken from audio recording)