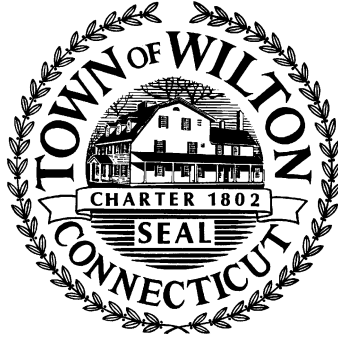


**CHARTER COMMISSION**

Robert Russell, Chairman  
Michael Kaelin, Vice Chairman



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TOWN HALL  
238 Danbury Road  
Wilton, CT 06897

**CHARTER COMMISSION**  
**February 24, 2009**  
**Wilton Town Hall, Room B**

**PRESENT:** Robert Russell, Michael Kaelin, Alice Ayers, Louise Herot, Toni Lee, Paul Burnham, Doug Levene, Marilyn Gould, Chris Weldon (via telephone)

Chairman Russell called the meeting to order at 7:15 p.m.

**Approval of Minutes:** Upon motion by Ms. Herot, the minutes of the 1/11/09 meeting were unanimously approved as presented.

**Subcommittee Reports and Discussion:**

Mr. Kaelin distributed copies outlining the concepts and issues discussed by Subgroup 1 (Articles III, IV, V, VI). These were discussed and questions were raised.

- Addition of a new definition of Adjourned Town Meeting. Adjourned Town Meeting is used in the Charter in two ways – votes taken by machine after the Town Meeting and also as a Town Meeting being “continued” to another time.
- All organizations who receive Town support should be required to enter into an agreement with the Town as to how proper oversight will be provided, with an option that the First Selectman be an ex-officio member. A separate section for Public Private Partnerships? Triggered by amount of funds being contributed? Does this belong in the Town Meeting section? Should Town Meeting have authority to approve Public Partnerships or only Board of Selectmen or both?
- Should the Town Meeting have the authority to make contributions to these organizations?
- ADD - Real estate leases and/or lease options to which the town is a party which involve a term in excess of 10 years *or where value of leased property is in excess of 1% of the total annual budget for the then current year.* Should neighbors be notified of sale or lease of property? (not under Town Meeting – perhaps under Selectmen).

- Delete “*permanent*” board or commission. There should be a distinction between “advisory” and those that have authority to take action? Define what is a commission, a committee, a council, ad hoc, etc. What powers should Board of Selectmen have in creating and dissolving committees?
- C-7(B) – Change 5 to 10 and change 15 to 20. “Not less than 10, nor more than 20 days.” Add “posted on town website”. “The requirement of posting in the newspaper may be dispensed with if permitted by State Statutes.” (Place someplace general rather than here)
- C-9(A)(1) – Change requirement to 2% in place of 50 signatures. Give Town Clerk 10 days.
- C-13(C) – Advisory/Ad Hoc clarification again. Need to be specific in this section. Too broad. Clarify that every board, committee, etc. shall select its own officers.
- C-15(E) – ADD - Members of the Board of Selectmen cannot instruct or direct town employees who are subject to the direction and supervision of the First Selectman.

Article VII – Mr. Burnham advised that Subgroup 2 has rewritten this entire section to make it more clear, but no substantive changes. He will forward copies to the other subcommittees.

Articles VIII, IX – Ms. Herot reviewed work done by the Subgroup 3.

- Appointed Officials – allow for separation of election of First Selectman from other Selectmen. Four year terms for First Selectman with no term limit. Four year overlapping terms for Board of Selectmen with a two term limit. Provision that party may nominate and a voter may vote for all open positions on Board of Education and Board of Selectmen. The subcommittee has constructed a way to transition to four year terms which is very complicated.
- Provision that Selectmen are authorized to increase the number of members of the Board of Assessment Appeals? This will be looked into.
- The Statutes say that the number of constables must be 7.
- Should P&Z fill their own vacancies? It was agreed that they should.
- Treasurer may not hold any other office. This was agreed.
- Four year terms for Registrars in non-presidential election years. This was agreed.
- Recall of First Selectman? This is being considered because there are term limits for the Board of Selectmen but not for First Selectman. This will be discussed further.

- Board of Assessment Appeals – elect their own chair? They do. Should every member including alternates be present to vote for Chairperson? Any board with alternates? Not in favor.
- C-52 – Compensation – First Selectman – The Board of Selectmen should discuss in executive session without First Selectman present.

The timeline for this commission to finish their charge in order to be ready for the November 3, 2009 referendum was approved.

The subcommittees will continue to meet. The next meeting of the full committee will be held on April 21, 2009 at 7:00 p.m.

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

Jan Andras  
Recording Clerk  
(minutes taken from audio recording)