

CHARTER COMMISSION

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Robert Russell
Chairman

Michael Kaelin
Vice Chairman

TOWN HALL
238 Danbury Road
Wilton, CT 06897

CHARTER COMMISSION MEETING
July 28, 2009
Wilton Town Hall, Room B

PRESENT: Robert Russell, Marilyn Gould, Louise Herot, Doug Levene, Chris Weldon, Toni Lee, Alice Ayers
ABSENT: Michael Kaelin, Paul Burnham

Chairman Russell called the meeting to order at 7:08 pm.

C-51-A and B - Vacancies – Ms. Gould advised that when someone is appointed to fill the remaining portion of an elected vacancy, town counsel has advised the town clerk that said term would expire on election day, rather than on November 30. After discussion, it was decided to add language to C-51-A and B to clarify that terms of those appointed to fill vacancies shall extend only through November 30 following the next regular town election, at which election, successors shall be elected for remaining unexpired portions of the terms.

Acceptance of Minutes: Not available. Will be accepted at next meeting.

Review of Changes:

Preamble - Ms. Lee and Mr. Kaelin are rewriting the preamble. Ms. Gould suggested beginning with an explanation of “Home Rule Law” that allowed the Charter to be adopted by the Town in 1962.

Definition of Annual Town Meeting – Ms. Herot advised that the statutes define ATM as a meeting held annually to consider adoption of the budget and “any other business as may be appropriate”. It was decided to add this to the definition in the Charter.

C-6-A (5) Real Estate Leases – The Board of Selectmen had recommended deleting the proposed addition to add a dollar value to the threshold that requires approval by the Town Meeting. It was decided to leave this as is and discuss further with the Board of Selectmen.

C-16-B (5) – The Board of Selectmen powers include “the acceptance of gifts of real property (except for real property or an interest therein in connection with subdivision of land)”. Ms. Gould questioned whether there should be an exception for the land that is required to be given to the town when there is a subdivision. The P&Z regulations do not deal with the responsibility for that property. She feels the P&Z and BOS, together, should be making these decisions. It was decided to delete the parentheses and to add in the heading of Paragraph B – “except to the extent otherwise provided by *this Charter or other law*, the BOS may administer in whole or in part:”

C-39-A – Qualifications; minority representation. After a lengthy discussion where it was agreed that employees who are not residents should not serve as voting members of a board or commission, it was decided to amend to read “*Uncompensated appointed officers and members of all appointed Boards and Committees shall be electors of the Town.*”

The Board of Selectmen will be meeting on Tuesday, 8/4/09. Charter Commission members will be present to discuss the proposed amendments. The next meeting will be held on August 6, at 7:00 pm where a final vote will be taken.

Having no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Jan Andras
Recording Secretary
(Minutes taken from audio recording)