

TOWN OF EAST WINDSOR CHARTER REVISION STUDY COMMITTEE

REVISED Special Meeting
Monday, February 12, 2018
Melrose Schoolhouse
195 Melrose Road, Broad Brook, CT. 06016

Committee Members

Co-Chairman: John Matthews, Keith Yagaloff
Regular Members: Don Arcari, Cher Balch, Betsy Burns, William Loos,
Jack Mannette, John Mazza, Charlie Szymanski
Alternate Members: Rachel Safford, Bonnie Yosky

MEETING MINUTES

**** These Minutes are not official until approved at a subsequent meeting****

CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL:

Co-Chairman Matthews called the Meeting to Order at 7:01 p.m. in the Melrose Schoolhouse, 195 Melrose Road, Broad Brook, CT. 06016

Roll Call: **Present:** John Matthews, Co-Chairman; Keith Yagaloff, Co-Chairman; Don Arcari, Cher Balch; Betsy Burns; William Loos, Jack Mannette; John Mazza; Rachel Safford; Charlie Szymanski.
 Absent: Bonnie Yosky.

Press: Anthony Branciforte, Journal Inquirer.

ADD AGENDA ITEMS, VOTE TO ADD/CHANGE IF NECESSARY:

No added Agenda items.

MOTION: **To APPROVE the Agenda as posted.**

Loos moved/Szymanski seconded/VOTE: In Favor: Unanimous

PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES, COMMENTS AND ACCEPTANCE VOTE:

MOTION: **To ACCEPT the previous Minutes of the Charter Revision Study Committee dated January 23, 2018 as presented.**

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Burns moved/Balch seconded/

VOTE: **In Favor: Matthews/Yagaloff/Arcari/Burns/Loos/Mannette/Mazza**
 Opposed: No one
 Abstained: Balch/Safford/Szymanski

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: The public is encouraged to provide their thoughts as succinct as possible. CSC members will not comment on the merits of an idea at this meeting, but may ask questions to clarify the proposal. A time limit may be imposed.

No one from the public was present.

OLD BUSINESS/a. Discussion of CCM “Forms of Municipal Governments in CT, and b/Poll Commissioners for preferences:

Co-Chairman Matthews referenced the CCM document, “Forms of Municipal Government in CT.”, noting the following forms of governing bodies: Selectmen/Town Meeting; Mayor/Council; Council/Town Manager. The Committee discussed several towns as examples of each form. The consensus of the Committee is to retain the current Selectmen/Town Meeting form of government for East Windsor.

Discussion followed regarding the low percentage of voter participation, and how that affects party and unaffiliated voter representation. It was suggested younger people lack interest in voter participation; discussion continued regarding methods to reach younger voters. The Committee considered researching the current Charter language in an effort to make voting easier.

NEW BUSINESS/a. Review previous 2015 Charter Commission (2015) proposed charter changes, and b. Poll Commissioners for consenting view on prior CRC proposals:

Co-Chairman Matthews noted he had been asked to research what the previous (2015) Charter Revision Commission (CRC) had proposed. He noted the 2015 CRC proposal never went to a public vote. A summarization of the proposed changes follows, with this Committee’s comments following the 2015 recommendation.

- **2015 PROPOSED CHARTER CHANGES:** **BOS – increase to 6 members plus the First Selectman:**
The Committee is split at this point, with an equal number favoring retention of the current 4 member Board of Selectmen plus the First Selectman, an equal number of members favored increasing the Board to 6 members plus the First Selectmen, and a couple members were undecided.
- **2015 PROPOSED CHARTER CHANGES** **Hire Town Administrator position, duties to include supervision of employees and research of comparative town data, employee to be hired by the BOS.**

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The Committee was split on this recommendation, but for those favoring the addition of a the Town Administrator position they felt the duties and to whom this employee would report to should be better defined, and the research duties should include comparative data regarding similar circumstances/problems within surrounding/similar towns. For the members that were undecided or opposed they favored hiring a Chief Financial Officer with the aptitude for financial analysis.

- **2015 PROPOSED CHARTER CHANGES Eliminate the Police Commission:**
Discussion followed regarding reporting and policy responsibility, should the Police administration report to the BOS rather than the Police Commission, should decisions made by the Police Commission be referred as recommendations to the BOS for final approval, should the Police Commission become advisory for policy purposes?
- **2015 PROPOSED CHARTER CHANGES Eliminate Board of Finance:**
The Committee was undecided at this point. Discussion followed regarding requiring the CFO to prepare the budget for referral to the BOF; the BOF would then become an advisory board working with the CFO.
- **2015 PROPOSED CHARTER CHANGES Budget Default – 2% plus COL, two referendum votes only:**
The consensus of the Committee opposed increasing the budget default to 2% plus a Cost of Living increase, while they did favor a reduction in the number of referendums going to vote from 3 to 2.
- **2015 PROPOSED CHARTER CHANGES Petition for Town meeting now 200 signatures, was 20 signatures:**
No discussion this evening.

NEW BUSINESS/c. Other Town Charters of interest:

Co-Chairman Matthews provided the Committee with a copy of the Charter for the Town of Ellington for reference.

NEW BUSINESS/d. Further review of January 16th Brainstorm List:
i. Further consolidate/Prioritize list:

The consensus of the Committee felt the proposed changes should be limited to a smaller number of recommendations rather than to offer the full Charter for review and a single vote on the whole. Discussion continued regarding overwhelming the public with too many options vs. recommending resolutions to the most prevalent problems.

ii: Research assignments:

- Consider Town Administrator as an option to Town Manager. Define responsibilities and to whom the position reports; research towns employing Town Administrators and towns employing both a Town Administrator and a Finance Director.

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BRAINSTORM FOR ADDITIONAL ITEMS:

No discussion this evening.

2ND PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

No one from the public was present.

SUGGESTIONS FOR NEXT MEETING AGENDA:

Continue to work on current brainstorming list.

ADJOURNMENT:

MOTION: To ADJOURN this Meeting at 9:05 p.m.

Balch moved/Mannette seconded/VOTE: In Favor: Unanimous

Respectfully submitted,

Peg Hoffman, Recording Secretary for the 2018 Charter Revision Study Committee