



## Town of Seymour

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### CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION

1 FIRST STREET, SEYMOUR, CONNECTICUT 06483

#### Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, October 18, 2017 7:00 PM

Norma Drummer Room

**Members Present:** Colleen Fries, Rhonda Geffert, Saundra Gesek, Ed Hendricks, Pat Lombardi, Jen Magri, Robert VanEgghen.

**Members Absent:** Bill Sawicki

**Members Arriving Late:** Bob Findley

**Others Present and Participating:** Atty Bryan LeClerc (representing Town Counsel Berchem, Moses & Devlin, PC).

**ITEM #1:** Call meeting to order.

Meeting was called to order by Chairman Pat Lombardi, at 7:00pm.

**ITEM #2:** Pledge to the Flag.

Everyone salutes the flag and states the Pledge of Allegiance.

**ITEM #3:** Approval of Minutes of Public Hearing of September 27, 2017.

The Chairman asked for a motion to approve the Minutes of the Public Hearing held on 9/27/07 as previously distributed.

Motion: Rob VanEgghen Second: Saundra Gesek

Vote: 7 – Yes 0 – No 1 – Abstain (Colleen Fries)

**ITEM #4:** Approval of Minutes of Public Hearing of September 27, 2017.

The Chairman asked for a motion to approve the Minutes of the Special Meeting held on 9/27/07 as previously distributed.

Motion: Rob VanEgghen Second: Jen Magri

Vote: 7 – Yes 0 – No 1 – Abstain (Colleen Fries)

**ITEM #5:** Correspondence.

Pat Lombardi reminded the members that the Chairpersons of Town Boards, Committees and Commissions had received a request from the CRC to poll their members and submit written suggestions regarding proposed changes to the Town Charter. These submissions are to be submitted to the Town Clerk's Office for retrieval by the CRC Chairman or Secretary Pro-Tem. Ed Hendricks reported that no correspondence had been received to date.

**ITEM #6: Discussion of Possible Changes to the Town Charter.**

Pat Lombardi said he wanted to operate under a consensus model of achieving agreement at this stage of the Commission's work rather than calling for Motions and Votes. He noted that the CRC would have the opportunity to vote when a draft of the revised Charter is ready to be submitted to the Board of Selectmen. The members present agreed with this suggestion.

Pat asked Town Counsel Bryan LeClerc to provide the Commission with a briefing of discussions about changes to the Town Charter that took place at the October 17, 2017 meeting of the Board of Selectmen. Attorney LeClerc noted that the comments made at that meeting did not represent directives from the Board of Selectman, as they were comments by the individual members and not formally voted upon by the Board. He then reported on some of the notes he had taken during the Board of Selectmen meeting. Following his presentation, Pat Lombardi asked Bryan to retype, format and send a copy of his notes to the CRC Secretary Pro-Tem for distribution to the Commission. Pat also asked the Secretary Pro-Tem to obtain a copy of pertinent sections of the Minutes of the October 17, 2017 meeting of the Board of Selectmen for distribution to the members at the next meeting of the CRC.

CRC member Bob Findley joined the meeting at this point at 7:25pm.

CRC members reported having difficulty locating Agendas and Minutes of CRC meetings on the Town Website. Jen Magri offered to contact Rory in the First Selectman's Office to make sure all links are active, thus making it easier for the Members and the public to locate and access these documents.

Pat Lombardi next suggested that the CRC work as a committee of the whole rather than breaking into work groups to review and discuss the Town Charter chapter by chapter and section by section. The members agreed with this approach. The members discussed and reached consensus on the following:

Chapter 1 Section 1.1 No Changes

Chapter 1 Section 1.2 Line 21 change word "by" to "be" at end of that line

Chapter 1 Section 1.3 No Changes

Chapter 2 Section 2.1(a) delete since it applies to State elections not to the Town Charter

Chapter 2 elicited significant discussion regarding the number of members on elected and appointed Town entities. Attorney LeClerc noted that CT State Statutes have limits set for some offices. He offered to look into this matter, and the CRC will revisit this discussion at a future meeting. The members also discussed the possibility of having Chapter 2 which deals with elected offices and Chapter 10 which deals with appointed positions in closer proximity in the revised Charter. It was noted that this might require a changed or new system of numbering chapters, sections and subsections. This too, will be revisited at a future meeting.

**ITEM #7: Public Comment.**

None.

**ITEM #8: Adjournment.**

Motion to adjourn made at 8:33pm.

Motion: Colleen Fries Second: Rob VanEgghen

Vote: 8 - Yes 0 - No 0 - Abstain

**Respectfully Submitted,**

Ed Hendricks  
Secretary Pro Tem