

**CHARTER REVIEW COMMISSION**  
**Colchester, Connecticut**  
**Town Hall Room 1**  
November 24, 2014  
Meeting Minutes

Members present: Gregg LePage, Gary Siddell, Ursula Tschinkel, Monica Egan and Betty Wagner

Guests: Town Clerk Gayle Furman, First Selectman Stan Soby

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chairman Gregg LePage.

There were no additions to the agenda.

Minutes of the November 10, 2014 meeting: One correction: Time was listed at 7:00 instead of 7:00. Also added was one member, Gary Siddell was absent.

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COLCHESTER, CT  
2014 NOV 25 PM 12:07  
Gayle Furman  
TOWN CLERK

**Citizen Comments:**

Ms. Furman explained that in order to be a certified Town Clerk, it is necessary to take five courses and a test. The courses are offered in December and May and the test in June. Because the courses are not offered concurrently, it takes up to three years to become certified. There is no requirement to be certified, but it is recommended. She also commented that she has been told it takes two years to learn the job.

**Review of Progress on Commission Charge:**

Mr. Le Page reviewed the charge to the commission. The Commission has become familiar with the charter and is working on language and correcting contradictory language. The Commission will continue to work on effectiveness and efficiency and after completing a review of the entire charter, will review governmental structure.

**Face book page:**

Mr. Soby explained that the Commission does not need the permission of the Board of Selectmen to set up a Face book page. Mr. LePage suggested that we wait until we have reviewed the entire charter. The members agreed. Mr. Soby suggested that the Commission might set up an email address: [charterreview@colchesterct.gov](mailto:charterreview@colchesterct.gov) and have it listed on the town website. That would enable Colchester residents to provide feedback to the Commission. Mr. LePage will talk to Marc Tate in Information Technology to get this in motion.

**Review of Current Charter:**

C. 601. Board of Finance.

A. The Commission is not recommending changes at this time.

B. The Commission questions whether six years is too long or the terms should be four.

Discussion followed. Mr. Soby commented that there has been very little turnover on the Board of Finance. There were also comments that it takes time to learn that board and

the current system of two being elected at each municipal election assures continuity. The Commission will seek the opinion of current members.

C. The Commission is not recommending changes to the introductory paragraph at this time.

(1): Mr. Siddell questioned dollar thresholds. Mr. Soby explained that there has been discussion of what can be done. No dollar amounts have been set. The Selectmen are in contact with the Board of Finance. There was discussion of why everything would be brought to the Board of Selectmen.

(2): The Commission is not recommending any changes at this time.

D. The commission is not recommending any changes at this time.

C. 602. The Board of Education.

The Commission discussed inviting members of the Board to attend a meeting and will do so.

A. The Commission is not recommending any changes at this time, but will discuss further whether the number of members should be six instead of seven.

B. The Commission is not recommending any changes at this time.

C. The Commission is not recommending any changes at this time.

D. The Commission is not recommending any changes at this time.

C. 603. The Board of Assessment Appeals.

A. The Commission is not recommending any changes at this time.

B. The Commission questioned whether the term of office should be four instead of two. This will be discussed further.

C. The Commission is not recommending any changes at this time.

D. The Commission is not recommending any changes at this time.

Article VII. Appointed Officials and Appointed Boards.

C. 701. Appointed officials. The Commission is not recommending any changes at this time.

C. 702. Appointed boards. The Commission is not recommending any changes to the introduction at this time.

A. The Commission is not recommending any changes at this time.

B. The Commission questioned whether the Sewer and Water Commission might be better served with fewer members than nine, possibly six instead. This will be discussed further.

C. 703. Eligibility and appointment of officials.

The Commission is not recommending any changes at this time.

C. 704. Removal of appointed officials.

The Commission is not recommending any changes at this time.

C. 705. Eligibility and appointment of members of appointed boards.

- A. The Commission will recommend that a sentence on minority representation be added.
- B. The Commission will recommend that the Registrars of Voters be added to the Justices of Peace as elected officials who may serve on an appointed board.

C. 706. Removal of members of appointed boards.

- A. The Commission is not recommending any changes at this time.
- B. The Commission is not recommending any changes at this time.
- C. The Commission is not recommending any changes at this time.

C. 707. Appointment of alternates to appointed boards.

The Commission will recommend that the wording "or disqualified" be removed from the sentence that reads: "Should a member of an appointed board for which alternates have been designated be absent or disqualified..."

At the next meeting, the Commission will begin with Article VIII. The next meeting will be on December 10<sup>th</sup> and will begin at **7:30 instead of 7:00.**

Motion to adjourn by Ms. Egan, Second by Mr. Siddell. The meeting was adjourned at 8:31 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Betty Wagner, Secretary