

**CHARTER REVIEW COMMISSION**  
**Colchester, Connecticut**  
**Town Hall Room 1**  
November 12, 2014  
Meeting Minutes

Members present: Gregg LePage, Ursula Tschinkel, Monica Egan, Betty Wagner  
Guest present: Jim Ford

The meeting was called to order at 7:0 p.m. by Chairman LePage.

No items were added to the agenda.

**Minutes of the October 22, 2014 meeting:**

Ms. Egan suggested we amend the minutes to include the numbers voted on each charter revision item that appeared on the 2006 election ballot.

Motion by Ms. Tschinkel to accept as amended. Second by Ms. Egan. Vote: Unanimous approval.

**Citizen comments:** Mr. Ford noted that the commission might look at how we structure the development process in Colchester. He is currently chair of the Economic Development Commission, but was speaking as an individual. He suggested that the town Planner become Director of Development and Planning. He also suggested we look at responsibilities and structure of the Department of Public Works in other towns. He also mentioned that the Economic Development Commission needs staff to focus on development and how to bring the town forward into the future. He said that Putnam has a very active Economic Development Commission.

**Review of 2006 vote:**

The vote on the questions was:

	Yes	No
1. Grammatical changes/ clarifications:	3114	2007
2. Change in budget continuance %:	2559	2475
3. Separate town & school budget questions	3377	1716
4. Make tax collector and treasurer appointed	1952	3088
5. create town manager position, amend powers First Selectman, etc.	1743	3337

**Face book page:** Tabled as Selectman Curran was not able to attend. He had agreed to check on whether we needed permission from the Board of Selectmen to set up a page.

**Review of current charter:**

C-303: The commission will suggest that the wording "none of the remaining" be added to clarify that other members of the Board of Selectmen may consider replacing the First Selectman if neither member of the First Selectman's party can assume the role. Also

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suggested would be wording to show that in circumstances where none of the members of the Board of Selectmen can assume the role, that an elector of the same party as the First Selectman was a member of at the time of his/her election could be selected.

C-401: The Commission discussed recommending that the First Selectman and Board of Selectmen serve a four year term with two members of the Board appearing on the ballot at each municipal election. If any member failed to complete his/her term, a replacement would be appointed to serve until the next municipal election.

C-402:

- A. The Commission will not recommend changes to this item.
- B. The Commission will recommend that the word “not” be removed so the wording will say: “The Board of Selectman may delegate this contractual authority.”
- C. The Commission is not recommending changes at this time.
- D. The Commission is not recommending changes at this time.
- E. The Commission is not recommending changes at this time.
- F. The Commission is not recommending changes at this time.
- G. The Commission is not recommending changes at this time.
- H. The Commission is not recommending changes at this time.
- I. The Commission will request feedback on dollar amount for transfer of funds and appropriation of funds.
- J. The Commission will recommend that #2 be eliminated.
- K. The Commission is not recommending changes at this time.
- L. The Commission is not recommending changes at this time.

C- 403:

- A. The Commission is not recommending changes at this time.
- B. The Commission will recommend that the wording be changed to “required warning time” instead of naming the length of the warning time.
- C. The Commission will check on whether publishing is still required.
- D. The Commission is not recommending changes at this time.
- E. The Commission is not recommending changes at this time.

C- 404:

The Commission is not recommending changes at this time.

C – 405: The Commission will recommend that the word Shall be replaced by “has” in the sentence: “The Board of Selectmen shall have the poser to call...: The Commission will also recommend that the word “shall” be replaced with “must” in the sentence regarding town counsel presence. In the sentence “Any witness so called shall have the right...” the Commission will recommend that “shall have” be replaced with “has.”

#### **ARTICLE V. Other Elected Officials.**

C – 501: Town Clerk

- A. The Commission discussed the wording since it is impossible to require that a town clerk be pre-qualified when it is an elected position. It will be discussed further at a later meeting.
- B. The Commission will look into the process to be qualified and the length of time it takes to become qualified. There was discussion of whether the position should be elected for four years or two. Discussion will continue at a future meeting.
- C. The Commission is not recommending changes at this time.
- D. The Commission is not recommending changes at this time.

C – 502. Tax Collector.

The commission discussed whether it should recommend again that the Tax Collector be an appointed position to be named Collector of Revenue. More discussion of this section will take place at a later date.

C – 503. The Treasurer.

The Commission discussed recommending that this elected position be eliminated in favor of rolling the duties into the Chief Financial Officer's position. The Commission will discuss further before making a recommendation.

**Adjournment:** Motion to adjourn by Ms. Egan, Second by Ms. Tschinkel. The meeting was adjourned at 8:32 p.m. The next meeting will be on November 24<sup>th</sup>.

Respectfully submitted,

Betty Wagner, Secretary