



TOWN OF MADISON  
CONNECTICUT 06443

**MEETING DATE:**

Tuesday, February 16, 2021

**MEETING PLACE:**

Zoom

**SUBJECT TO APPROVAL**

**Charter Review Commission  
Minutes**

Members Present: Joe MacDougald (Chair), Liz Daly, Matthew Gordon, Noreen Kokoruda, Robert O'Connor, David Osterman, Joan Walker

Others Present: Peggy Lyons, First Selectwoman  
Lauren Rhines, Town Services Coordinator / Risk Manager

The committee convened at approximately 5:04 p.m.

1. Public Comment.  
None.

2. Review and take action to approve prior meeting minutes.

MOVED by Noreen Kokoruda and seconded by Liz Daly to approve the Minutes of February 9, 2021.

VOTE: the motion was passed unanimously.

3. Review Charter process with members of the Board of Selectmen.

First Selectwoman Peggy Lyons provided some thoughts to the Committee which she will provide in greater detail at the Public Hearing. She noted the issues with a lack of continuity in the First Selectman's role with a two-year turnover, the impact of running the town government during an emergency, and also issues with dollar amount thresholds that signify town meetings. The Committee and First Selectwoman Lyons also reviewed the nomenclature of Selectman and the his/him pronouns in the Charter.

4. Preparation for the February 25th Public Hearing.

Chairman MacDougald provided an overview of how he thought the meeting could run. The Committee reviewed the importance of communication through the newspaper, town website, Facebook pages and also outreach to civic

organizations and other Town Boards & Commissions. The Committee agreed to have Matthew Gordon help with the communications and also to appoint Liz Daly as the Vice Chair to run meetings in Chairman MacDougald's absence.

**5. Public Comment.**

Gus Horvath of Aylesbury Circle stated that the First Selectman is only one vote of 5 votes; the dynamic of being the head of the government alongside the person you defeat is an interesting dynamic. In 1980 the Town considered that the terms for the Selectmen should only be one-year terms. He also stated that many towns are now run by a professional head, such as a Town Manager. Mr. Horvath stated that he had also sent the Committee back-up information and hoped that it would be helpful to the Committee.

**6. Adjourn.**

There being no objections, the Committee adjourned at 5:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Lauren Rhines  
Town Services Coordinator / Risk Manager