



TOWN OF MADISON
CONNECTICUT 06443

MEETING DATE:

Tuesday, April 6, 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: Lauren Rhines, Town Services Coordinator / Risk Manager
Dave Anderson, Dir. Of Planning & Economic Development
Ron Clark, Planning & Zoning Chair
Ryan Duques, EDC Chair
Heather Crawford, Conservation Commission Chair

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

1. Public Comment.

None.

2. Review Charter input from the Land Use Committee Chairs.

Dave Anderson introduced the Chairs on the meeting and stated that each Commission would have separate input into the process moving forward. Mr. Anderson commented that regarding Appointive Boards being detailed in the Charter, he cautioned that the Charter may be obsolete. For instance, the language in the Charter regarding a Flood & Erosion Control Board contradicts state statute. This is one example of the impact of having this level of detail prescribed in the Charter.

Mr. Duques added that the details in the Charter seem to lack a real description or Charge. The Committee and Commission Chairs reviewed how

Commissions know what their work should be, and how they accomplish the goals that are needed in Town.

Mr. Clark provided an overview of the current appointive commission process and how the nominations for volunteers works. He stated that utilizing volunteers is important as electing all commission members is cumbersome and will turn away people to serve on the committees.

The Committee reviewed that the current Charter draft has language that is unclear regarding the length that any one person can serve as a Chair of an appointive committee.

The Committee asked if there were any points or items that are not currently in the Charter which should be; or anything that is in the Charter that should be taken out. Mr. Anderson stated that a big issue is lack of continuity of Town leadership, which impacts the boards. This is part of the discussion surrounding the Town Manager. Also, the Chairs could have a more collaborative review and discussion once or twice per year. There are some operations in silos that happens now. Mr. Duques echoed these comments regarding work being done in silos and also added that establishing goals and directives from the Board of Selectmen, First Selectmen and Board of Finance is very important. Ms. Crawford echoed these comments and stated that more direction or attention from the elected Boards is very important for her committee.

Mr. Clark provided some insight into the potential for a Town Manager and he stated that in his professional life he enjoyed working with Town Managers. He added that although some positions are elected, the Superintendent is not elected and a Town Manager would be similar to the Superintendent process. The Committee also reviewed that there needs to be a balance between what is included in the Charter for appointive boards; and also what should be the baseline standard for what is included in the Charter. The Chairs also reviewed that more flexibility in membership would be helpful to staff committees and not overtax the volunteers. Ms. Crawford stated that there might be an opportunity for more working groups versus appointive boards and commissions.

Ms. Crawford added that the Committee should consider the inclusion of the TPAC as described in the Plan of Conservation and Development.

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

MOVED by Matthew Gordon and seconded by Liz Daly to approve the Meeting Minutes of March 30, 2021.

VOTE: the motion was passed with five affirmative votes and one abstention from Ms. Kokoruda; Ms. Walker was not in attendance for this motion.

4. Public Comment.

Jen Gordon of Lenore Drive stated that she is President of the Newcomers Club and she invited the Committee to attend a membership committee meeting to review their work with the Newcomers Club.

5. Adjourn.

There being no objections, the Committee adjourned at 6:29 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Lauren Rhines
Town Services Coordinator / Risk Manager