

Town of Durham
CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION

Regular Meeting
Minutes
May 30, 2006

1. Call to Order

The Charter Revision Commission (CRC) met at the Temporary Town Hall located at 350 Main Street on Tuesday, May 30, 2006. Chairman McLaughlin called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

Members Present: Laura Francis, Carol Kleeman, Pat Murawski, John Corona, Martin French, Betty Long, Mark McLaughlin, Ron Melnik

Members Absent: Alice Tucker

Others Present: Richard Laister, Renee Primus, Joe DellaVentura (and Mrs. DellaVentura)

2. Public Comments.

Richard Laister spoke to moving the election of Board of Education members to November. Because of the amount of money in the budget and that it would provide better elector validation; at town meeting people could vote who are not eligible. Education budget – wants it more like the town budget.

Renee Primus as she was going door to door she felt that approximately one out of three houses complained about the board of education budget and there was real feeling out there that the board of education members should be voted in November. Renee took Betty Long's report from the first selectman's office to do further research.

Mr. DellaVentura he felt it was a broken system and that the November election is the only accountable way to elect Board of Education members.

CRC members responded to the public comments.

3. Review of minutes.

Motion by Carol Kleeman, seconded by John Corona to approve minutes of May 22, 2006 meeting as presented. Ayes: John Corona, Laura Francis, Carol Kleeman, Betty Long, March McLaughlin, Pat Murawski. Abstentions: Martin French, Ron Melnik. Motion passed.

4. Report on Subcommittee Research. No additional information.

5. Discuss/Decide Charter Revision Items

Motion by Laura Francis, seconded by Ron Melnik to approve Sections 3.6 and 4.6 as presented by John Corona with adjusted punctuation as follows:

Section 3.6 Sale or Purchase of Real Estate

Subject to the provisions of Section 3.7 of this Charter, the discontinuance of roads by the Town, the sale or other disposition of real estate of the Town used or reserved for Town purposes, and, except as provided in Section 4.6, the purchase or other acquisition of real

Town of Durham
CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION

estate for such purposes, shall require approval of a town meeting. The sale of real estate not used or reserved for town purposes shall be in accordance with an ordinance adopted by town meeting.

Section 4.6 Additional Powers and Duties of Selectmen

- 2) To purchase, lease, sell or convey real or personal property of or for the Town; and also with the approval of the Planning and Zoning Commission under Section 8-24 of the Connecticut General Statutes, or any successor statute of similar import, the Selectmen may accept any of the following without town meeting approval: interests in land offered to the Town to expand existing town highways and rights of way, new roads constructed to Town standards, and interests in land reserved as open space or otherwise protected from development pursuant to a development plan approved by the Planning and Zoning Commission.

Motion passed unanimously.

Section 6.19 Board of Library Directors

John Corona presented comments to be included in the final report.

Motion by Laura Francis, seconded by Carol Kleeman to accept comments as presented.

There was much discussion as to the wording of this comment section. Many revisions were suggested.

Motion made by Laura Francis, seconded by John Corona to table this item so that a revised copy can be presented for a vote. Motion passed unanimously.

Section 4.4 Appointments:

Chairman McLaughlin presented additional wording to Section 4.4 regarding term limits on appointed positions. There was much discussion but no motion was made, it will be brought back at the next meeting.

Section 7.3 Amendment of the Charter

Chairman McLaughlin presented suggested wording.

Motion made by Laura Francis, seconded by Pat Murawski to accept wording presented by Mark McLaughlin regarding Section 7.3 Amendment of the Charter.

Discussion continued with changes suggested by members and an amendment to the main motion as follows:

Motion made by Laura Francis, seconded by Pat Murawski to amend the main motion as follows:

Section 7.3 Amendment of the Charter

The Board of Selectmen shall appoint a Charter Revision Commission not more than five years after the dissolution of the most recent Charter Revision Commission.

Town of Durham
CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION

Motion to accept amendment to the main motion passed unanimously.

Main motion passed unanimously.

Section 6.9 Department of Emergency Management

Chairman McLaughlin presented suggested wording for the Department of Emergency Management. Lengthy discussion followed. All members agreed to review the original presentation made at the April 17th public hearing before next meeting.

6. **Other Items as Appropriate.**
7. **Prepare for Next Meeting.**
8. **Adjourn.** Chairman McLaughlin adjourned the meeting at 10:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Betty Wakeman Long
Recording Secretary*

Items tabled:

- 1) Section 6.19 Board of Library Directors Comment Section for final report