

**Town of Chelsea
Charter Commission Public Meeting
October 4, 2012, 6:30 PM
Chelsea Town Office
Minutes**

Members Present:

Barbara Skehan, Charles Skehan, Ben Smith, Peter Hanson, Scott Ludwig, Maria Jacques, Elizabeth Cousins

Excused:

Rick Danforth, Elizabeth Larrabee

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:38 p.m. by Ben Smith.

2. Approval of the Minutes

Elizabeth Cousins made a motion to approve the September 5, 2012 minutes, which was seconded by Barbara Skehan. The motion carried with Ben Smith abstaining.

3. Continuation of Discussions of Recommendations of Charter Commission Subcommittees

A. Recall and Conflict of Interest Subcommittee

Peter Hanson went over the changes he had incorporated into the latest draft of the section. Minor changes were offered regarding Section references. The Commission members also agreed to require the petition process for a recall should be initiated with no fewer than 25% of registered voters based on the number of votes cast at the previous gubernatorial election. In addition, members agreed that no recall petition shall be filed in the case of an official subjected to a recall vote and not thereby removed until at least 12 months after such vote.

Under the Removal of Appointed Official or Employee section, the group eliminated the ability of the employee/town official removed by the Town Manager to appeal his or her removal to the Selectmen.

B. Town Manager, Town Clerk, and Other Employees Subcommittee

Minor grammatical and stylistic changes were made to the latest draft of this section.

C **Boards and Committees Subcommittee**

The only changes made were of substance were in regard to the Budget Committee. The Commission clarified the terms of the Budget Committee. Members of the Commission agreed that three will be elected by voters to serve three-year, staggered, terms. The remaining four members of the Budget Committee would be appointed by the Board of Selectmen annually within 45 days of the Town Meeting. The Budget Committee will be required to meet within 60 days, rather than 30, of the annual Town Meeting. The duties of the Budget Committee were changed to require its attendance at the annual Town Meeting AND at any Special Town Meeting having a financial impact AND when requested by the Board of Selectmen.

4. Scheduling of Next Meeting

The Commission scheduled its next meeting for October 17, 2012 at 6:30 p.m. in the meeting room of the Chelsea Town Office.

5. Other Business

Ben Smith noted that at the next meeting the Commission would identify the remaining sections of the proposed charter that have not been addressed by individual subcommittees. Thereafter, the Commission can probably begin integrating the sections into a draft Charter.

6. Adjournment

Peter Hanson moved to adjourn, which was seconded by Barbara Skehan. Ben Smith declared the meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.