

**MINUTES**  
**Special Joint Meeting**  
**Board of Selectpersons**  
**Charter Revision Commission**  
**Tuesday, August 19, 2025 – 6:00 PM**  
**Norma Drummer Room – Seymour Town Hall**

COPY RECEIVED  
DATE: 8/26/25  
TIME: 1:45pm  
TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE

**Board of Selectpersons Members Present:** Annmarie Drugonis, Bob Findley, Trisha Danko, Al Bruno and Theresa Conroy

**Charter Revision Members Present:** Chairman, Tom Gardella, John Lombardo, Naveen Madivala, John Stelma and JoAnn Sardo.

**Board of Selectpersons Members Absent:** Frederick Stanek

**Charter Revision Commission Members Absent:** Richard E. Peck and Tara Miller

**Others Present:** Town Counsel, Bryan LeClerc and CAO, Kurt Miller, Jean Falbo-Sosnovich, Mike Renkewith and Kristen Bruno

**ITEM #1: Call meeting to order**

First Selectwoman, Annmarie Drugonis, called the meeting to order at 6:05 PM

**ITEM #2: Pledge of Allegiance**

Everyone saluted the flag and recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

First Selectwoman Drugonis stated that the vote at the last BOS meeting was to have a joint meeting between the charter revision commission and the BOS to review the draft report presented to the BOS.

**ITEM #3: Public Comment**

None.

**ITEM #4: Discussion regarding the Charter Revision Commission's report to the Board of Selectpersons**

Town Attorney, Bryan LeClerc explained the process the Charter Revision Commission went through in preparing their draft report and the process moving forward. After the meeting tonight, the Charter Revision Commission will meet again and prepare a final report for the Board of Selectpersons. The Board of Selectpersons will then meet on September 2, 2025, to act on the final. They can:

- Approve or reject all or part of the recommendations.
- Reject the entire report signaling the end of the process.
- Approve some of the proposals and reject others.
- The Board of Selectpersons will develop the questions for the November Election.

Tom Gardella, Chairman of the Charter Revision Commission, spoke and discussed the process the commission went through in arriving at the draft report.

A discussion of the draft report followed.

- The form of Town Government – discussed but no changes recommended.

- Revision to Charter Section 6.1 regarding the process for considering votes cast for elections of First Selectperson and Board of Selectpersons – discussed but no changes recommended.
- Planning & Zoning Commission - elected or appointed – discussed but not recommended to change.
- Section 14.3 (Budget Process) was examined and revamped. The commission proposed some changes to the dates of the budget process and made this section of the Charter easier to read and understand. Selectperson Bruno discussed the great effort the Board of Finance and others put into the budget process. He recommended adjusting the requirement to have the quorum at the Annual Town Meeting to two thirds of the prior year's budget referendum votes. He also recommended having the option for the members at the Annual Town Meeting to be able to increase as well as decrease or delete a line item in the budget.
- Trisha spoke and discussed how she is in favor of the Annual Town Meeting as it is the only time a full and complete budget is presented. This ensures the residents are informed and can cast their vote based on the most current and up to date information. Trisha suggested the commission revisit the wording in the Charter that references decreasing or eliminating a line item in the budget. Her preference would be to have this section/wording removed. If this section is to stay in, she suggested revising the Charter to have a budget line item be increased as well. She would also like to see the quorum amount increased from the current 50 residents.
- Tom Gardella, Chairman of the Charter Revision Commission spoke and made it clear that the commission wants to keep the Town Meeting in place going forward.
- Bob Findley spoke and is in favor of the department heads being at the meeting as they would be able to better support the amounts in the budget and residents can be better informed. Furthermore, he doesn't believe people should be able to reject the budget at the Town meeting as that is what the Referendum is for. People go to the Town meeting to understand the budget and go to the referendum to vote either for or against the budget.
- First Selectwoman Drugonis believes there should be an additional meeting before the referendum. Her vision is for the Board of Finance with the support of the Town department heads and residents to have a discussion before setting the final mill rate and sending it to Referendum. Furthermore, she stressed the importance of department head participation to address the impact of a potential large decrease on a department's budget.
- Section 15.2 Special Town Meetings:  
The Town Charter currently reads as follows:  
Special Town Meetings shall be called by the Board of Selectpersons whenever action is to be taken upon any of the following items not acted upon at the Annual Town Meeting:
  - (a) Any resolution making an appropriation of more than \$100,000.00 and was not included in the annual budget.
  - (b) Any resolution authorizing the issuance of notes or other borrowing of \$100,000.00 or more not included in the budget or the issuance of bonds in any amount.
  - (c) Any resolution authorizing the issuance of notes, bonds or other borrowings for \$500,000.00 or more, except tax anticipation notes, shall be authorized at a referendum.

- The Charter Revision Commission has proposed the following updates to Section 15.2 to increase the amount to \$150,000 in section (a) and (b) above. In section (c) the reference to “notes” was removed.
- Section 16 Minority Representation – no changes have been made due to State Statute
- Review all Town Boards, Commissions and officials including Emergency Management Director and not limited to jurisdiction and operations. The Charter Revision Commission has proposed adjustments in their draft report.
- Remote meetings were also discussed and no changes were recommended by the Charter Revision Commission due to State Statutes.
- The process and creation of meeting agendas was discussed and no changes were presented in the draft report presented to the Board of Selectpersons.
- The Charter Revision Commission also reviewed grammar and statutory inconsistencies in the current charter and presented updates in the draft report.
- The Charter Revision Commission also reviewed the Town’s long-term strategic plan and presented updates in the draft report.
- The Charter Revision Commission presented as part of their draft report a new Section on Shared Services between the Town and Board of Education. First Selectwoman Drugonis discussed her belief that shared services should not be included in the Town Charter. Trisha suggested a better place for shared services would be in the Town’s long-term Strategic Plan. Al discussed several State Statutes which he believes reference the circumstances referencing shared services and whereas the Board of Education has to agree to enter into such contracts and as such should not be included in the Town Charter. Theresa also believes that shared services should not be included in the Town Charter. Bob believes it should be part of the Strategic Plan. Tom Gardella clarified with the Town Counsel regarding the legality of including shared services as part of the Town Charter. Al Bruno made a point of order that having shared services as part of the Town Charter is a violation of multiple state statutes.
  - Town Counsel provided his legal opinion that state statutes reference the word “may” whereas the Charter Revision Commission has presented in its draft report a provision that the Town and Board of Education “shall” share services. The language including the word “shall” is obligatory.
  - The Charter Revision Commission recommended adding the following language to the Town Charter: “In order to promote efficiency, reduce costs, and enhance the delivery of public services to the residents of the Town, the Town and the Board of Education shall jointly plan, develop and implement a shared services relationship by which the Town will provide certain shared administrative, operational and support services to the Board of Education. Such shared services shall include human resources, information technology, financial management procurement, facility operation and maintenance and any other administrative, operational or support services that the Town and Board of Education may agree to in writing from time to time.”
  - Bob Findley mentioned that he has a concern about what is legally permitted. Trisha would like to see this be addressed in the Strategic Plan. Town Counsel discusses the

idea is to bring both the Town and the Board of Education to the table to discuss shared services. Selectperson Bruno responds by saying state statute already addresses this in multiple sections. Theresa believes shared services does not belong in the Town Charter.

- The next discussion addresses how to reference the First Selectperson. The Charter Revision Commission, with the help of student volunteers, made recommended revisions to this section. The discussion continued with the goal of having the Charter easier to read.
- Tom Gardella expressed a concern on why there was a vote to remove the educational requirements of the Town Treasurer.
- The discussion continued and the Charter Revision Commission will meet to determine what they would like to include in their final report to the Board of Selectpersons.

**ITEM #5: Public Comment**

Mike Renkewitch, 28 Woodside Avenue – stated a large group of people is not needed to make a change and one person's opinion should be heard.

Kristen Bruno 10 MacConnie Court– spoke in favor of discussion regarding the budget. She also does not believe shared services should be in the Town Charter.

Jean Falbo Sosnovich from the Valley Independent Sentinel asked a couple of questions regarding the Town Meeting and was reminded by Town Counsel that this is public comment and not a question and answer session.

**ITEM #6: Adjournment.**

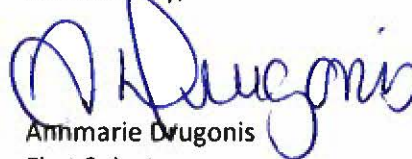
Annmarie Drugonis adjourned the meeting at 7:57 PM

Submitted by,



Lianna McMurray  
Recording Secretary

Reviewed by,



Annmarie Drugonis  
First Selectwoman