

Charter Revision Commission Sb-Committee
Commissions
Minutes- 3/24/2021

Attendance: Frank LaDore, Jackie Downing, Myron Hul, Joshua Sprague-Oliveira, Sarah Gallagher, Jay Kaye (Honorary Member)

Absent- Lamond Battle, Jeff Cohen

Meeting called to Order- :7:09PM

Fire commission Discussion: We spoke about what we decided in Charter with 5 commissioners, 3 appointed by the LC and 2 appointed by the Mayor. We will have 3 Ex-officio members: One from the BOE, One from the Mayor's office and one from the LC Finance committee.

Discussion on DEI Commission: Myron pointed out that there are other commissions and Task force that exist, and we want to make sure that we do not duplicate efforts or step on the toes of any other commissions. There was an Equity Task force put into place and we are not sure if they still meet. There are other commissions that do many things that are in the proposal for the DEI commission and we need to look at that closely.

This brought up the topic of commissions established by ordinance and by charter. We need to get a list of Commissions established by ordinance and do an overview to see if there is duplication.

The Sub-committee on commissions was established to make recommendations to the Full Charter Revision Commission. The following topics and recommendations were discussed based on public comment or input from other commission members:

Civil Service: Currently has only 3 commissioners. There is a recommendation that Civil Service has 5 members with one alternate.

Discussion ensued on if Civil Service should continue to address the positions on the BOE. The BOE has a Director of HR and a full Board of Education. Should CS continue to oversee all of these hires? We will bring this up to Steve and the full CRC Board.

Sarah G. asked the question of how a commission can review applications and resumes with no formal training. This is done in all commissions across the state.

Police Commission:

Because we have two meetings dedicated to Police and Fire commission, the sub-committee tabled discussion. Myron did ask about the separation of Traffic and Police and should we discuss this. This will be a part if the discussion under the full board.

Library Commission:

There was a request from the public and some library commissioners that the Library Board have 9 members. This is done throughout the state and may be part of state statute. It is the recommendation of this sub-committee that the library board be extended to 9 commissioners.

Ethics Commission:

There was a brief discussion on Ethics Commission and their composition. This was discussed at the full CRC Board. Is there a need for certain expertise? Should Ethics have an Administrator or oversight on this board? We will defer to Mr. Mednick about some of these questions/issues.

Inland/Wetland Commission:

They are requesting and alternate for their commission. The sub-committee recommends granting this request.

Jay Kaye brought up the Economic and Development commission. This led to discussion about the makeup of all of our commissions. Jay, as chair of Communications, will ask for input from all of the chairs and commissioners on their needs and suggestions. Getting that feedback will be instrumental in deciding how we move forward. Sarah brought up the point about having town representation on all commissions. We discussed whether or not we need full representation on all commissions from every district. We realize it is not feasible to have all 9 districts represented on all of our commissions and board, but the CRC needs to look at certain commissions and see where this is possible.

Other Business and Issues to Discuss with Full CRC:

- Our recommendation is that all Commissions should have a Hamden Email address for public input
- All meetings should be available in person and virtually
- Commissions should meet regularly
- There should be term limits on all commissions

Filling vacancies:

The recommendation is that there should be a time limit on vacancies. If the Mayor does not fill a vacancy within 90 days and/or the LC doesn't approve the vacancy within 3 meetings, the chair of the commission can fill the vacancy, within the parameters of the commission by-laws.

Motion to Adjourn: Myron Hul- 8:34Pm, Seconded by Jackie Downing..its all Spaghetti!