

22 July 2021

Dear Members of the Charter Revision Commission,

First, we want to thank you once again for all the time and thought you have given to Hamden's new Charter. Your efforts are much appreciated.

We also want to thank you for the careful, detailed consideration you have given to the question of public input during Board and Commission meetings. We understand the perspective you have applied to the timing of public comments, and we appreciate the new language you are proposing for section 7-1.B(7)(b).

During your discussion on Tuesday, several Commissioners noted that public input will be most useful to a Commission/Board before action is taken on items for which new information is presented or heard during a meeting. We agree totally, and we are writing in hopes that the language in section 7-1.B(7)(b) can be modified to specifically state your expectations about timing.

With respect, we have taken the liberty of offering a few additional words about this to your suggested language for 7-1.B(7)(b): see below. Thank you very much for considering this suggestion, and thank you again for all your work on the issue of public input and on the Charter as a whole.

Sincerely,
Sarah Clark and Gus Spohn
Haverford St

Elaine Dove
Santa Fe Ave

Diane Hoffman
Wilmot Rd

CRC's Proposed New Language: ACTION ITEMS –7/22/2021 (LCR # 11)

§7-1.B(7)(b) Public Comment: Prior to and During Meetings.

Meetings of Boards and Commissions shall be open to the public in accordance with the General Statutes. There shall be a public comment session prior to the

commencement of all business on the regular and special meeting agenda of a Board or Commission. Each Board or Commission shall establish rules pertaining to the time and duration of such public comment and the protocols for additional public comment, in the discretion of the Chair, during any meeting in the event said Board or Commission has received or heard new, material information during the course of a meeting following the initial public comment session. (102 words)

Suggested rewording (changes from CRC version appear in bold)

7-1.B(7)(b) Public Comment: Prior to and During Meetings.

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Protocols for additional public comment shall be created for use, at the discretion of the Chair, during any meeting when said Board or Commission has received or heard new, material information following the initial public comment session. This additional public comment shall be heard before the Board or Commission takes action on an item related to the new, material information. (120 words)