

CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION

PUBLIC HEARING MINUTES

Thursday, February 25, 2021

6:30 p.m.

Remote ZOOM Meeting

Webinar Link: via Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88233232693>

Note: These are summary minutes; a tape recording of this meeting is on file in Wolcott Town Hall.

PUBLIC HEARING:

Chairman Dennis Cleary called the Public Hearing to order at 6:33 p.m., with the Pledge of Allegiance and attendance was taken. Clerk read the Public Notice printed in Republican American on 2/16/21

MEMBERS PRESENT: Dennis Cleary, Patricia Najarian, Angela Sanna, Ryan Pawlak, Robert Ficeto, Kenneth Wilson, Nicole Smart

MEMBERS ABSENT:

ALSO PRESENT: Attorney Brian Tynan

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

Dennis Cleary asked that any elected or appointed officials speak first. Mayor Thomas Dunn was the first to comment, thanking the Commission for their service and asking them to look at the positions and not the person as it changes. This is an opportunity to guide and have checks and balances. His door will be open should we have any questions that he can assist with.

Sharon Moore who currently serves on the Board of Assessment Appeals – Would like us to look into contracts. Her issue stems from what had happened when the Board of Education entered into a large contract with a tech company that closed. The total amount of the contract was paid up front and the work was not completed. Sharon suggested limiting the amount of money of the contract. Robert Ficeto brought some clarification through additional discussion with Sharon as she mentioned having some oversight through an additional commission. Perhaps limiting or allowing less power of one Board and adding additional approval thresholds.

Chief Edward Stephens offered himself should we need his assistance.

The public in attendance was each asked by Dennis Cleary if they had anything to contribute for the Commission to review and consider.

Cheryle McMurray of 83 Finch Rd. would like to see term limits for Mayors and perhaps see a Manager and some new ideas.

Kaitlyn Styles of 189 Munson Rd currently serves on the Democratic Town Committee. Kaitlyn thinks that it would be wise to look into further commissions to advocate for minority or alienated groups in town. Perhaps a commission on equity and inclusion, to advocate for individuals who felt marginalized or to investigate issues that may be biased. We need to put Wolcott on the map as a community of advocacy to set us apart.

Michael Macary of 30 Steele Avenue is concerned, and would like to be sure that Wolcott is in compliance with the state.

Krista Moore of 64 Woodtick Road, serves on the Zoning Board of Appeals, and the Democratic Town Committee. She would like to reiterate Kaitlyn Styles recommendation.

All other attendees were called on by Dennis Cleary. However, no additional input was given.

In closing Dennis explained the fast-paced schedule and that this is our first Public Hearing, and that the State Statute requires us to have one at the beginning of our work. The more input that we get in the beginning, the better we can spread out our work load. After we have recommendations and have specific language, we will have a second Public Hearing. We will be working throughout the summer to have a product by the end of August for review by the Town Council. This will need to be approved and be ready to be placed on the ballot 60 days prior to the election by State Statute.

ADJOURNMENT:

Chairman Dennis Cleary adjourned the meeting at 6:53pm

APPROVED:

DeAnna Morelli
Clerk
Charter Revision Commission

Dennis Cleary
Chairman
Charter Revision Commission