



Chester Charter Commission  
Meeting Minutes

Charter Drafting Workshop Session  
September 27, 2023 – 6:30 PM Charter Drafting Session  
Location: Chester Town Hall First Floor Meeting Room

*PLEASE NOTE Charter Drafting Workshop Sessions – (1) the public is invited and encouraged to attend these sessions in-person (remote access will not be available); (2) check posted meeting agendas to confirm start time for each meeting; and (3) recordings will not be provided.*

CALL TO ORDER

The 9/27/23 Charter Commission Drafting Session was called to order at 6:37 PM by Richard Strauss, Chairmen, Chester Charter Commission. In attendance included: Commission members; Ian McLachlan, Jesse Gnazzo, Brian Dailey, Mark Borton, Lol Fearon, and Richard Strauss. Absent was Pat Halloway.. There was no audience of citizens.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Jesse, and seconded by Brian to approve the minutes from 9/21/23. There was no discussion, and the motion passed unanimously.

DRAFT CONSIDERATION AND REVIEW

Please see the attached preliminary draft for more specifics on the articles / changes referenced below.

The Commission discussed appointed and elected positions with review of candidates for upcoming election. There was also discussion regarding the language discussing voting requirements by the Board of Selectmen. The language “ $\frac{2}{3}$  majority” was considered by the commission as an alternative to “super majority.”

The Commission discussed Article 8, and the number of members to Chester Boards and Commissions. The Commission then also discussed the changes made to Article 9.

OTHER

The Commission discussed the upcoming scheduled meetings, including the October 10th and 18th meetings. The Commission will also be holding a public briefing on 10/26.

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For the next meeting, each Commission member will go through the draft, and identify issues (specific to language) that they would like to discuss. The Commission is looking for consistency of language, and any immediate issues that need to be addressed. Chairmen Strauss notes that Attorney Roberts has seen the draft and confirmed that there aren't any glaring issues. The Commission will seek further input from the public on the briefing to be held on October 26th.

There was discussion regarding engaging the public further in the weeks ahead. It was mentioned that there are students at Valley Regional High School that may (as part of their capstone project) be interested in contributing to the work of the Charter Commission. Brian is going to reach out to the capstone project coordinator at VRHS.

The Commission will also try to put together some brief points that could be included in a poster to notify / inform the public of the charter drafting process / progress. These points will be forwarded to Chairmen Strauss for discussion at the next meeting.

#### ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:33 pm

Respectfully Submitted by: Brian Dailey, Secretary, Chester Charter Commission