



RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN RE: APPOINTMENT AND DURATION OF THE CHESTER CHARTER COMMISSION

PRESENTED BY: Charlene Janecek, First Selectman

DATED: April 12, 2023

WHEREAS, pursuant to C.G.S. §7-188(b), the Board of Selectmen of the Town of Chester has determined that it is in the Town's best interests to initiate action to draft a Charter for the Town of Chester;

WHEREAS, the Board of Selectmen seeks to establish and appoint a Charter Commission in accordance with the provisions of C.G.S. §7-190(a); and

WHEREAS, the Board of Selectmen desires to make recommendations to the Charter Commission in accordance with the provisions of C.G.S. §7-190(b).

NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved by the Board of Selectmen of the Town of Chester that it does hereby initiate the charter adoption process pursuant to CGS §7-188(b).

NOW THEREFORE, be it further resolved by the Board of Selectmen of the Town of Chester that, pursuant to C.G.S. §7-190(a) within 30 days of adoption of this resolution, the Board of Selectmen shall by resolution appoint the members of a charter commission, consisting of not fewer than five nor more than fifteen electors, not more than one-third of whom may hold any other public office in the municipality and not more than a bare majority of whom shall be members of any one political party, which commission shall proceed forthwith to draft a charter.

NOW THEREFORE, be it further resolved by the Board of Selectmen of the Town of Chester that pursuant to C.G.S. §7-190(b), the Charter Commission appointed herein shall be authorized to consider such matters as it deems desirable or necessary to improve the governance of the Town, including that the following recommendations be directed to the Charter Commission for its consideration forthwith upon the appointment of its members:

1. Review the Chester Governance Study Report (02/09/2023) for background in developing the draft Charter.
2. Consider Charter provisions to address the issues that the Town of Chester has been experiencing in recent years that form the basis for drafting a Town Charter as specified in the Chester Governance Study Report, including: increased complexity of the town's government; continuity of executive leadership; diffused executive governance authority;

Town of Chester
203 Middlesex Avenue
Chester Connecticut 06412



telephone: 860-526-0013
facsimile: 860-526-0004
web page: chesterct.org

difficulty recruiting and maintaining professional staff; difficulty in finding volunteers to serve and fill vacancies on boards and commissions; and low Town Meeting participation.

3. Consider Charter provisions to expand the Board of Selectmen to more than the current three members with staggered terms.
4. Consider Charter provisions providing for shared legislative authority between the Town Meeting and Board of Selectmen.
5. Consider Charter provisions that align the Town's fiscal authorities with the responsibility to support and achieve Town policy and initiatives.
6. The Charter Commission may consider other provisions beyond those identified above.

NOW THEREFORE, be it further resolved by the Board of Selectmen of the Town of Chester that pursuant to C.G.S. §7-190(b), the Charter Commission shall submit its draft report no later than May 15, 2024. However, the Charter Commission should use its best efforts to submit its draft report no later than April 1, 2024 to assure that the final report, proposed charter and question(s) will be submitted in order to be considered at referendum in the general election of 2024.

NOW THEREFORE, be it further resolved by the Board of Selectmen of the Town of Chester that pursuant to C.G.S. §7-190(c), the Charter Commission shall terminate upon acceptance or rejections of its final report by the Board of Selectmen.

Adopted by the Board of Selectmen at its meeting held on April 12, 2023.