

**MINUTES
TOWN OF GROTON
CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION
JANUARY 14, 2008
TOWN HALL ANNEX – COMMUNITY ROOM 2**

1. Members Present: Shirley Dunbar-Rose, Stan Dziurzynski, Nancy Moffat, Richard Moravsik, Raymond Munn, Frank "Mick" O'Beirne and John Wirzbicki
Members Absent: Robert Frink and Ed Stebbins
Also Present: Deputy Town Clerk Janet Downs and Office Assistant Lori Watrous

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

2. A motion was made by Munn, seconded by Moravsik to approve the minutes of December 10, 2007.
It was noted that at the bottom of page three, items to be reviewed should include **TOWN CLERK** rather than **TOWN COUNCIL**.
The minutes were unanimously approved as corrected.

3. COMMUNICATIONS

- a. Chairman

Chairman O'Beirne reported that the Town Clerk has sent an e-mail to Town Attorney Mike Carey asking him to review the RTM's Power of Initiative subsequent to the discussion at the December 10 CRC meeting.

He also reviewed an e-mail from the Town Clerk to Attorney Carey about the 2002 "second opinion" on the RTM's authority to vote on funds from non-Town sources. The chairman cited the Connector Road issue and the members agreed that it is the opinion of the Commission that the RTM should act as a second voice on such issues.

Chairman O'Beirne also received a communication from Assistant to the Town Manager Lee Vincent forwarding comments from former Councilor Dave Winkler about whether the commission plans to address the question of ethics. The chairman noted that the ethics question will be discussed at a later time and that he will communicate with Mr. Winkler.

Chairman O'Beirne noted that Mr. Vincent would also like input on Section 9.3 – *Political Activity*.

- b. Secretary: No report.

- c. Members: No report.

4. CITIZEN COMMENTS

None.

5. OLD BUSINESS

Deputy Town Clerk Downs drew the members' attention to the 2002 letter from Attorney Mike Carey regarding the RTM's authority to act on non-Town sources of funding. The letter was sent to all members.

6. NEW BUSINESS

Members reviewed the **APPOINTIVE BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS** section as restructured by Ed Stebbins.

Clerk's note: All changes made by consensus or vote will be attached to these minutes. Please see "Compilation."

Chairman O'Beirne noted that this is basically a restructuring of the existing section.

- a. Chapter _ *Appointive Boards and Commissions (Based on Mr. Stebbins' draft)* - There was consensus to delete the sentence, "Reference is made...for detailed information."
- b. Sec. _ .1 (*new*) *Addition and Elimination* - Add the sentence, "The Council may, at its discretion, create or eliminate boards, commissions and committees, either permanent or non-permanent consistent with CGS."
- c. Sec. _ .1 (*re-number as* _ .2) *Eligibility for Membership* - No changes.
- d. Sec. _ .2 (*re-number as* _ .3) *Appointment* – No changes.
- e. Sec. _ .3 (*re-number as* _ .4) *Reappointment* – No changes.
- f. Sec. _ .4 (*re-number as* _ .5) *Officers* – No changes.
- g. Sec. _ .5 (*re-number as* _ .6) *Removal* – No changes.
- h. Sec. _ .7 (*new*) *Guidebook* – Add the sentence, "Descriptions of individual Boards and Commissions shall be in accordance with CGS, and delineated in Town of Groton publication "Guidebook to the Boards, Commissions and Committees."
- i. Sec. _ .8 (*new*) *Continuation* – Add the sentence, "All boards, commissions and committees in existence on the effective date of this charter shall remain in existence until such time, if any, that the Town Council eliminates it pursuant to the provisions of Sec. _ .1."

Members reviewed the **BOARD OF EDUCATION** section as restructured by Chairman O'Beirne.

- a. Sec. _ *The Board of Education (Based on Chairman O'Beirne's draft)* - No changes.
- b. Sec. _ .1 - No changes.
- c. Sec. _ .2 *Powers and Duties* - No changes.
- d. Sec. _ *Election* - No changes. (This section will be included in Sec. _ .2.4 under **OFFICERS AND ELECTIONS.**)
- e. *Vacancies* - No changes.

Members reviewed the **TOWN CLERK** section as proposed.

Members discussed the desirability of electing versus appointing the Town Clerk. The Chairman called for a vote on retaining the office of Town Clerk as an elected position. The vote was unanimously in favor.

- a. Sec. _ .1 (*Based on the proposed draft*) Add to the second sentence "...and shall commence as prescribed by ordinance." Add to the last sentence "...or as designated by CGS."

There was consensus to set aside the remainder of this section until the Town Clerk is

present.

A recess was taken from 8:00 to 8:10 p.m.

Members reviewed the **OFFICERS AND ELECTIONS** section as restructured by Mr. Munn.

- a. Sec. __.0 *General (Based on Mr. Munn's draft)* – Change the word "sections" to "chapter."
- b. Sec. __.0.1 *Definitions* – Delete this section
- c. Sec. __.0.1.1 *Town Official* – Delete this section
- d. Sec. __.0.2 – Delete this section
- e. Sec. __.1 *Election of state and federal officers* – Change "Connecticut General Statutes" to "CGS." Delete the words "thirty (30)" in the first sentence.
- f. Sec. __.2 *General town elections* – In the first sentence, change "1987" to "2007."
- g. Sec. __.2.1 *Representative Town Meeting* – Delete "...consistent with sections 3.2 and 3.3 of this Charter...." Add "CGS or minority representation shall apply to the RTM."
- h. Sec. __.2.2 *Town Council* – Add "CGS or minority representation does not apply to the Town Council."
- i. Sec. __.2.3 *Town Clerk* – Refer to the proposed draft of the section regarding the Town Clerk above.
This section will be discussed at a later time.
- j. Sec. __.2.4 *Board of Education* – Delete wording for this section and replace with paragraph three of Chairman O'Beirne's draft of Board of Education section as cited above.
- k. Sec. __.3 *Majority Party Limitations* – Delete this section. The provisions of minority representation will be included in each section. Subsequent sections will be re-numbered.
- l. Sec. __.4 *Reserved* – Revisit this section at a later time.
- m. Sec. __.5 *Determination of petition sufficiency* – No changes.
- n. Sec. __.5.1 *Sufficiency of signatures* – No changes.
- o. Sec. __.5.2 *Insufficiency* – No changes.
- p. Sec. __.6 *Breaking an election tie* – No changes.
- q. Sec. __.6.1 *General* – In the first sentence, delete, "...as required by the Connecticut General Statutes."
- r. Sec. __.6.2 *Representative Town Meeting* – No changes.
- s. Sec. __.7 *Eligibility to hold Town office* – No changes.
- t. Sec. __.7.1 *Residence* – No changes.
- u. Sec. __.7.2 *Holding multiple offices* – Change "Connecticut General Statutes" to "CGS" wherever it appears.

- v. Sec. __7.3 *Conflict of Interest* – In the last paragraph, delete "...shall be created by ordinance." and replace with "...may be created by ordinance or by CGS." In the last sentence, delete "The Code of Ethics..." and replace with "Such a Code of Ethics...." Revisit this section.

(Mr. Dziurzynski left the meeting at approximately 9:05 p.m.)

w. Sec. __8 *Vacancies* – No changes

x. Sec. __8.1 *General* – No changes

y. Sec. __8.2 *Vacancies in the representative town meeting* – In the first sentence, restore the words, "...provided, when the person vacating the office has been elected as a member of a political party, such vacancy shall be filled by the election of a member of the same political party."

z. Sec. __8.3 *Vacancies in the Board of Education* – Substitute paragraph 4 (*Vacancies in the BOE*) from the **BOARD OF EDUCATION** section as restructured by Chairman O'Beirne.

aa. Sec. __9 *Voting districts* – No changes.

The members discussed creation of an Ethics Commission and reviewed the progress of the CRC to date.

Chairman O'Beirne indicated that at the next meeting, the commission will continue with **OFFICERS AND ELECTIONS** and move on to **TOWN MANAGER AND DEPARTMENTS**. Members should bring any suggestions for a budget referendum. The **TOWN CLERK** section will be revisited.

7. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Shirley Dunbar-Rose
Secretary
Approved January 28, 2008