

TOWN OF SOMERS
Charter Revision Commission
Meeting Minutes
April 9, 2025
6:00 PM
Selectmen's Conference Room



1. Call to Order

Vice Chair John Parks called the meeting to order at 6:02 pm.

2. Members Present: Thomas Clark, Edward DePeau, Kathryn Lerz, Michael Marinaccio, John Parks and Theresa Schmidt; and Town Hall liaison Karen Neal.

Members Absent: Scott Kaupin

Guests: Tim Keeney, First Selectman; Brad Pellessier, Planning Commission Chair; Todd Rolland, Director of Land Use and Public Works; and Jennifer Roy, Assistant Director of Land Use/Zoning Enforcement Officer.

3. Approval of Minutes

March 26, 2025 Meeting

Michael Marinaccio moved to approve the minutes, seconded by Thomas Clark. Theresa Schmidt abstained with unanimous decision by the other members followed.

4. Public Comment

There was no members of the general public in attendance and no communications were received.

It was agreed by all members present to move the discussion and resolution to after the Zoning and Planning Commission presentation by guests and discussion with guests.

7. Discussion - Recommendation from the Board of Selectmen:

- a. Shall the Zoning and Planning Commissions be combined as a single appointed body?
 - i. The commission met with Jennifer L. Roy, Assistant Director of Land Use/Zoning Enforcement Officer, Brad Pellessier, Planning Commission Chair, and Todd Rolland, Director of Land Use and Public Works. Jennifer presented a general outline of the workload and processes of the planning and zoning commissions on an application. She shared a recent example of an application going through the process. Brad provided further input regarding the two commissions responsibilities. A general discussion along

with further questions of Jennifer and Brad with input from Todd and Tim was held regarding how other towns operate as one commission, efficiencies gained if the commissions were combined, and how the process would be streamlined for constituents. It was pointed out that the Zoning and Planning Boards are Commissions.

Further discussion concerned if the commissions were combined what would be the appropriate number of members and alternates. It was recognized that there are dedicated and knowledgeable members serving on both commissions presently.

ii. Discussion – Commission Members

After a brief discussion it was moved by Michael Marinaccio and seconded by Ed DePeau to move to a resolution on the question of combining the Zoning and Planning Commissions. Brief discussion followed with a unanimous decision.

Resolution: Be it resolved that the Somers Charter Revision Commission approves the recommendation of the Board of Selectmen to combine the Zoning and Planning Commissions as a single appointed body consisting of 7 members with 3 alternates.

Ed DePeau moved to approve the resolution, seconded by Michael Marinaccio. Unanimous decision followed.

5. Discussion - Recommendation from the Board of Selectmen:

- a. Shall the Board of Selectmen appoint a Town Administrator who reports to them and oversees the day-to-day operations of the Town?

Discussion regarding the manner and timing of appointing a Town Administrator, additional changes that may be needed to the Charter, and ways to educate the citizens of Somers anticipating possible questions they will have. Carl Landolina, Town Attorney will need to be consulted. All agreed that we could move to the next agenda item of the resolution recognizing that there was much to be considered, and consultation needed.

6. Resolution regarding Recommendation #2 – Shall the Board of Selectmen appoint a Town Administrator who reports to them and oversees the day-to-day operations of the Town.

John Parks moved to approve the resolution, seconded by Michael Marinaccio. Unanimous decision followed.

8. Discussion – Other recommendations submitted to the Charter Revision Commission Members

Our next meeting on April 23rd David Marti is scheduled to come regarding terms of office.

The Commission can also review Todd Roland's request regarding Civil Preparedness changes at the next meeting. We will not need him to be there as it appears to be updates on wording and titles.

The May 7th meeting we have David McCaffrey scheduled to come.

9. Discussion – Recommendations from the Charter Revision Commission Members

Each member should review the Charter by next meeting to see if there are any other items to recommend.

10. Commission Member Comments

No further comments.

11. Adjournment

Thomas Clark moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:12 pm, seconded by Ed DePeau, and followed by a unanimous decision.

Respectfully submitted,

Theresa Schmidt

Secretary, Charter Revision Commission