

Town Charter Study Committee
Final Report to Board of Selectmen
July 11, 2013

Generally, the advantages associated with having a charter are that it provides a different mode of selecting officials, better accountability, or a clearer delineation of functions for town officials. Specific advantages are listed below:

1. Having a charter gives the Town greater flexibility to organize its form of government without seeking general assembly approval.
2. The Town can also adopt minor variations from statutory requirements for organization and procedure.
3. Officials, such as the treasurer, tax collector, and town clerk can be appointed rather than elected.
4. The charter can prescribe a precise budget timetable.
5. Towns that are experiencing growth frequently need flexibility to adapt to changing conditions in town.
6. Under a charter, the people of the town get to decide how big or small the government needs to be to serve the needs of the town.

Supporting facts:

1. 111 of the 169 towns in Connecticut have adopted town charters.
2. Towns that are larger and smaller than Lebanon have charters.
3. A charter does not remove the town meeting form of government.

As per the Town of Lebanon's 2010 Plan of Conservation and Development, Lebanon operates without a town charter or a professional administrator. As the town is required to deal with an increasing array of local, state and federal mandates, consideration should be made to establish a town charter and to enact an alternate form of government; e.g. town administrator or manager.

Conclusion: This Charter Study Committee recommends pursuit of a town charter.

The recommendation of this Charter Study Committee to the Board of Selectman is to form a formal charter study committee.