

Lebanon Charter Commission
Regular Meeting
May 28, 2015, 6:30 pm
Community Center
Minutes

Agenda item 1. The meeting was called to order at 6:35 pm at the Community Center by Chairman T. Meyer.
Members attending: J. Daviau, L. Johnson, K. LaPorte, E. Macauley, T. Meyer, A. Wayland.
Members absent: J. Bendoraitis, P. Myers
Public attending: J. Fitter

Agenda item 4. A motion was made by A. Wayland & 2nd by E. Macauley to move agenda item 4 forward to allow J. Fitter to be heard without waiting until the end of the meeting. Vote was affirmative unanimously.
Jan Fitter expressed support for the Charter and urged the Commission to more specifically address recurring comments and misunderstandings. She suggested concise statements regarding the recurring comments in Question and Answer format that could be possibly be published. Fitter also noted that the proposed streamlined budget process would make it much easier for time-pressed volunteers to provide their budget input. Commission members noted that some "Q&A" have been available on the Town web site, but noted that the Q&A needs updating. Meyer committed to update with focus on key areas. Jan urged the Commission to publicize the Q&A and use other means such as signs to urge affirmative vote. The Commission noted that it's "charge" was to draft a Charter it felt was in the best interest of the Town but had no budget for advocacy. In addition, the Commission itself will end its work in July. The Commission thanked Jan for her input and concern.

Agenda item 2. A motion was made to approve minutes of the previous meeting of 4/9/2015 by J. Daviau, 2nd by E. Macauley. Approval was unanimous.

Agenda Item 3.1. T. Meyer relayed recent comments from the First Selectman regarding concern that there may be resistance to the Charter from three constituencies: Those concerned about the cost and accountability of a Town administrator; those concerned about the BOS being able to pass Minor Ordinances; and those concerned about the proposed budget formation process. Discussion ensued with members strongly in support of the proposed budget process and the use of a Town administrator as they are presently formulated. All were open to further discussion regarding Major/Minor Ordinance provisions and agreed to discuss it further at the next Commission meeting.

The Commission discussed suggested changes received from J. Okonuk which represented BOS discussions after their Public Hearing. It was noted that additional changes may be forthcoming from the BOS. Additional comments supplied by an interested citizen, Ron Bergeron were discussed at the same time. T. Meyer offered to mark-up a copy of the suggestions as discussed and send it to Commission members and the BOS to confirm their accuracy and request all additional BOS suggestions by 6/4/15.

The Commission expressed thanks for Mr. Bergeron's comments and suggested a letter of thanks.

Agenda item 3.2. No discussion

Agenda item 5. Motion to adjourn by A. Wayland. 2nd by E. Macauley. Approval was unanimous. Meeting was adjourned at 8:38 pm

Respectfully Submitted
Thomas G. Meyer
Chairman, Charter Commission