

Town Charter Study Committee
February 7, 2013 – 7:00 PM
Town Hall
MINUTES

- 1.0 The meeting was called to order by R. Nelson at 7:03 PM.

Members present included John Daviau, Keith LaPorte, Deborah Martin, Ryk Nelson, and Alicia Wayland.

- 2.0 **A. Wayland moved to accept the minutes of the January 3, 2013 Town Charter Study Committee meeting. Seconded by K. LaPorte. Vote: Yes, unanimous.**

- 3.0 **A. Wayland**, distributed copies of Chapter 98 Municipal Powers, which the guideline that our town government works under. Our committee will use it as a baseline in our work as we prepare our recommendation to the Selectmen. (i.e. what is the benefit of Charter over Chapter 98) All are asked to review for discussion at our next meeting.

- 4.0 Discussion was held regarding background information on other town charters:

K. LaPorte reported that Columbia is the same as Lebanon, with the inclusion of a Town Administrator along with the Board of Selectman. The town works with budget referendums and town meetings.

J. Daviau reported that Andover also works with a Board of Selectmen. It was noted that at the end their written charter there is a place for historical notes from charter revisions. All felt this was an important and efficient way to track changes to the charter over time.

Andover's town charter outline will be compared to Chapter 98 for further discussion at our future meetings.

- 5.0 **A. Wayland** reported that she reviewed a lot of information at the CCM website and spoke with a staff member at CCM. Alicia distributed information that identifies a list of Connecticut towns with charters and a 1997 analysis of advantages and disadvantages of adopting a charter. All are asked to review for discussion at future meetings.

- 6.0 Discussion was held regarding the boards, committees and commissions in town, and whether or not we want to interview all of them. It was noted that the 1979 Charter Study group had met with all. It was also noted that not all of the questions they asked had to do with government format. All agreed that our questions need to be objective and relevant to the topic.

Two questions for the upcoming interview were formulated:

1. Does working under the Connecticut State Statutes in any way impact the work you are doing in your job – either positively or negatively?
2. Does working under the Connecticut State Statutes in any way impact the work you are doing on your board, committee or commission – either positively or negatively?

It was suggested that we prepare 8 – 10 questions for the interviews, and that we each formulate a question or two for discussion at our next meeting.

- 7.0 Discussion was held regarding rescheduling the March 7, 2013 meeting due to the anticipated absence of the committee chairman. It was decided to leave our meeting as scheduled, to be led by D. Martin

- 8.0 **K. LaPorte moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:50 PM. A. Wayland seconded. Vote: Yes, unanimous**

Respectfully Submitted,



Deborah R. Martin
Secretary