

Town Charter Study Committee
April 4, 2013 – 7:00 PM
Town Hall
MINUTES

1.0 The meeting was called to order by R. Nelson at 7:07 PM.

Members present included John Daviau, Ron Bender, Deborah Martin, Ryk Nelson, and Dave Kotomski.

Note: corrections to the agenda: meeting start time of 7pm was omitted, and item 3.a should read Chapter 98 rather than Chapter 8

2.0 J. Daviau moved to accept the minutes of the February 7, 2013 Town Charter Study Committee meeting. Seconded by R. Nelson. Vote: Yes, unanimous.

3.0 Discussion was held regarding Chapter 98 Municipal Powers. John comparing them to the Andover charter and Dave to the Coventry charter. Our committee will continue to 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)

4.0 Dave noted that the Coventry charter appears to have been written in a boilerplate template. It was adopted in 1967 and has been revised at least four times. It appears to be flexible, and is easy to read and understand. It is posted on Coventry's website via a third party site.

5.0 General discussion ensued about the next steps for our committee. In speaking with people in Lebanon, John is hearing that some are against a Charter for a variety of reasons. Does this Committee want to educate the public with information about a Charter form of government? Ryk commented that we are still educating ourselves at this point. John suggested that we share with the public early in this process and detail what the process will be and get their input before we make our recommendation to the Selectmen. Ryk suggested that we wait until after we complete our interviews with the boards and commissions. Dave spoke to the possible benefit of a town manager format with the possibilities of budget savings and efficiencies. It was stated again that in creating a charter we do not have to move away from a selectmen form of government.

6.0 At our next meeting we will finalize the questions we will use in our interviews, make the list of who will be interviewed, start a preliminary schedule of interviews and draft a letter to those who we will be interviewing.

7.0 J. Daviau moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:12 PM. D. Kotomski seconded. Vote: Yes, unanimous

Respectfully Submitted,

Deborah R. Martin
Secretary