

**CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION**  
**Town of Wallingford**

**Regular Meeting**  
**February 23, 2009**

A Regular Meeting of the Wallingford Charter Revision Commission was held on Monday, February 23, 2009, at the Wallingford Town Hall, Room 315, Wallingford, Connecticut.

Seated from the Commission was Jeffrey Knickerbocker – Chairman, Suzanne Wright – Vice Chair, Debbie Gross, Kate Wall, Vincent Cervoni, Ray Rys, Ray Lilley, Robert Applegate, and Recording Secretary Sonja Vining

Absent: Hank Toman

Chairman Knickerbocker called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

**1. PUBLIC COMMENT:**

**Mike Brodinsky**, Town Council Chairman discussed the annual auditor's report. Mr. Brodinsky stated that there were some provisions that caused a comment in the auditor's report. The auditor along with Jim Bowes indicated that they would cooperate with the Charter Revisions Commission to clear up this issue. Ms. Gross has a copy of the auditor's report for the Commission to review.

Mr. Brodinsky referred to his comments dated September 8, 2008. On page 5 of those comments he referred to the BOE budget. Mr. Brodinsky has put some further thought into the issue and he believes it would be fine if it were left as is.

Mr. Brodinsky brought up the topic of board and commission members voting by phone. He believes it has to be determined if Wallingford wants it to be allowed or not. Mr. Brodinsky discussed some history on this issue specifically involving the PUC. He referred to an opinion given by the Legal Department of Wallingford and also an opinion submitted from the Freedom of Information Commission. Mr. Brodinsky does not feel that this procedure is something that the people of Wallingford want or expect to happen.

Mr. Brodinsky feels that the Recreation Commission could be appointed by the Town Council and increased in size. He also believes that the Pension Commission could be increased in size. Mr. Brodinsky believes that the PUC should have a greater number of members, at least five (5), and perhaps some alternates.

**Wes Lubee**, Montowese Trail, discussed the Parks and Recreation Commission. Mr. Lubee has concerns with the lack of maintenance of the Wallingford parks.

Mr. Lubees feels that the term "shall" used in the Pension Commission section should be changed to "must". He doesn't believe that all of the people on that commission are qualified to serve.

Mr. Lubees spoke about the removal of appointees. He feels it would be a good idea for the Commission to set up some sort of automatic trigger that would take the burden off the various committee chairmen.

Mr. Lubees would like to see the PUC membership increase in number. He briefly discussed telephone polling done by one of the town commissions. The issue of meeting procedures was discussed.

**Bob Gross**, Longhill Road, discussed the procedure for removal of appointees. He feels there should be some type of mechanism in place to remove people who do not do their job. Mr. Gross believes there should be a limit on the number of commissions one person can sit on at a time. He feels that a person should only be allowed to serve on one commission at a time. Mr. Gross stated that there are 45,000 people in town and it should not be that hard to find people to serve as long as the openings are announced or advertised.

## **2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

February 9, 2009 - Regular Meeting

Mr. Rys made a motion to approve the Minutes of the February 9, 2009 – Regular Meeting. The motion was seconded by Ms. Wright and passed.

## **3. PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE:**

Present from the Parks and Recreation Committee were Linda Mercuri and David Gelo. Ms. McCurry doesn't feel that the number of members on the committee necessarily needs to be increased. She stated that most of the people show up for the meetings although they are not necessarily active members. There was discussion about how non-productive committee members should be handled. She indicated that the Committee has not seen the ordinance that pertains to the Parks and Recreation Committee. There was discussion about the difficulty the Committee has in getting action as far as having Public Works maintain the parks. The Parks and Recreation Committee would like to have two public works employees committed solely to the maintenance of the parks.

**MR. RYS:**

**MOTION THAT CHAPTER XII DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION, LINE 3 READ "APPOINTED BY THE MAYOR AND CONFIRMED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL, AND SERVING WITHOUT COMPENSATION. SAID BOARD"**

**MS. WRIGHT:**

**SECOND**

**VOTE:**                    **ALL MEMBERS VOTED “YES” BY A ROLL CALL VOTE EXCEPT FOR MR. LILLEY WHO VOTED “NO”.**

There was further discussion about the number of members on the Parks and Recreation Committee.

**MS. WRIGHT:**            **MOTION TO INCREASE THE NUMBER OF MEMBERS ON THE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE TO SEVEN (7).**

**MR. LILLEY:**            **SECOND**

There was discussion about having the number of members specified in an ordinance rather than in the Charter.

**MS. WRIGHT:**            **WITHDREW HER MOTION.**

**MR. LILLEY:**            **WITHDREW HIS SECOND.**

**MS. WRIGHT:**            **MOTION THAT CHAPTER XII LINE 2 READ “ADVISED BY A RECREATION COMMISSION CONSISTING OF MEMBERS APPOINTED BY THE MAYOR AND CONFIRMED BY THE COUNCIL, AND SERVING WITHOUT COMPENSATION. SAID BOARD SHALL HAVE SUCH NUMBER OF MEMBERS, TERMS OF OFFICE, OTHER DUTIES AND POWERS AS THE COUNCIL, BY ORDINANCE, MAY DETERMINE.**

**MR. APPLGATE:** **SECOND**

**VOTE:**                    **UNANIMOUS**

4. LAND USE AND DEVELOPMENT SECTION:
5. STATUTES REGARDING THE BOARD OF EDUCATION AND APPOINTMENTS:
6. PERSONNEL AND PENSIONS SECTION 1B-D:
7. PERSONNEL AND PENSIONS APPEALS BOARD SECTIONS 2-4:
8. DISCUSSION OF PROCEDURES FOR REMOVAL OF APPOINTEES:

The above items will be discussed at the next meeting with input from the Legal Department.

#### **9. CHAPTER XIV PUBLIC UTILITIES:**

The Commission discussed getting input from the PUC and the Legal Department before discussing this chapter.

**10. CHAPTER XV FINANCE AND TAXATION:**

The Commission discussed the possibility of having Jim Bowes and the Legal Department give input on this chapter.

**11. OTHER ITEMS TIME PERMITTING**

Chairman Knickerbocker reviewed the existing meeting schedule. The Commission decided to add a Special Meeting on March 2, 2009 and on March 30, 2009.

The Commission went back to review Chapter XIV, Section 13 Oversight of the Board by the Council.

**MS. WRIGHT:**            **MOTION TO REVISE CHAPTER XIV, SECTION 13, LINE 151 TO READ “OF THE COUNCIL WITHIN THIRTY (30) DAYS OF ANY ACTION BY THE BOARD;”.**

**MR. RYS:**                **SECOND**

The Commission discussed the motion.

**MS. WRIGHT:**            **WITHDREW HER MOTION.**

**MR. RYS:**                **WITHDREW HIS SECOND.**

**MR. APPLGATE:** **MOTION TO REVISE CHAPTER XIV, SECTION 13, LINE 151 TO READ “OF THE COUNCIL WITHIN TWENTY-ONE (21) DAYS OF ANY ACTION BY THE BOARD;”.**

**MR. RYS:**                **SECOND**

**VOTE:**                    **UNANIMOUS**

**MR. LILLEY:**            **MOTION TO REVISE CHAPTER XIV, SECTION 13, LINE 154 TO READ “LEAST TWO THIRDS OF THE ELECTED MEMBERS. ALL BOND ISSUES SHALL BE GOVERNED BY THE”.**

**MS. WRIGHT:**            **SECOND**

**VOTE:**                    **ALL MEMBERS VOTED “YES” BY A VOICE VOTE EXCEPT MR. CERVONI WHO VOTED “NO”.**

The Commission went on to discuss Chapter XVI. No changes were made at this time.

The Commission asked for Mr. Brodinsky’s input on Chapter XV, Section 4. He briefly reviewed the section giving comment to the Commission on what he feels needs to remain in the Charter and

what could possibly be removed. The Commission will ask the Legal Department to look at line 64 through line 78 and line 87 through 92 to see if they are necessary. There was discussion of the Mayor distributing sufficient copies as mentioned in line 51 through 60. If that change is made those lines could be moved up to section 3 of that same chapter.

The Commission discussed Chapter XV, Section 5 and Section 6.

**MR. APPLGATE: MOTION THAT CHAPTER XV, SECTION 5 AND SECTION 6 BE DELETED FROM THE CHARTER.**

**MS. WRIGHT: SECOND**

**VOTE: UNANIMOUS**

The Commission discussed Chapter XV, Section 7.

**MR. CERVONI: MOTION THAT CHAPTER XV, SECTION 7, LINE 143 THROUGH LINE 146 BE REVISED TO READ “TRANSFER AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$500.00 PER FISCAL YEAR OR ANOTHER AMOUNT AS MAY BE AMENDED BY ORDINANCE FROM TIME TO TIME PER ADOPTED LINE ITEM WITHIN A DEPARTMENTAL BUDGET. THE MAYOR SHALL RENDER A MONTHLY REPORT OF SUCH TRANSFERS TO THE TOWN COUNCIL. AMOUNTS REQUESTED ABOVE \$500.00 SHALL BE APPROVED OR DISAPPROVED BY THE MAYOR AND FORWARDED”.**

**MR. APPLGATE: SECOND**

**VOTE: UNANIMOUS**

The Commission reviewed Chapter XV, Section 10.

**MR. LILLEY: MOTION THAT CHAPTER XV, SECTION 10, LINE 184 THROUGH 189 BE DELETED FROM THE CHARTER.**

**MR. APPLGATE: SECOND**

**VOTE: UNANIMOUS**

## **12. ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Rys made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Ms. Gross and passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 9:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sonja Vining  
Recording Secretary  
Town of Wallingford  
Charter Revision Commission  
February 23, 2009