

MINUTES
MEETING OF THE KILLINGWORTH
CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION

Monday, August 1, 2022 7:00 p.m. via GoToMeeting

Members in Attendance: Joan Gay, Joanne Gorman, Arjumund Abid, Eric Nunes, Cathy lino and Kathleen Zandi, Chair

Members Absent: Casey Jacob

Visitors (as identified on screen): Jamie Sciascia, Clerk

The meeting was Called to Order at 7:03 p.m. by K. Zandi, Chair

Process for Submission of Public Comment (Kathy):

K. Zandi spoke about Submission of Public Comment. There are several ways to communicate comments and/or feedback to the Commission: 1) Attending one of the three Public Hearings (one hearing took place on May 26, 2022); 2) Sending a comment/feedback via email: killingworthcharterrevision@townofkillingworth.com; or 3) Send in a written comment to the Killingworth Town Hall care/of the CRC.

Summary of Written Public Comment received Since Last Meeting (Joanne):

Dawn Mooney wrote to the Commission regarding how she feels the Town Clerk's position should be elected, not appointed, with a minimum term of 4-years. She asked that the Commission have a discussion on whether the Town Clerk should be elected, hired or appointed. Also, she spoke on capitalization of the word "Board" throughout the Charter which was noted in the CRC Minutes of June 9th. Dawn followed up with the Town Attorney and he advised that the CRC should contact him before making such changes since there are some instances where it is not appropriate.

Natalie Ortho Drew wrote to the Commission regarding the Public Health Agency issues and asked that the Commission look into that section of the Charter. Natalie also inquired about the process of getting the information out to the Town so they know what issues are being brought forth and how successful the Commission is in resolving same.

Approval of Minutes:

Due to Casey's absence, the Commission decided to Table the Minutes of June 9th until the next meeting so Casey can review the edits with the CRC accordingly.

Motion #1 - Cathy lino *Moved* and Joanne Gorman Seconded a motion to *Table* the Approval of Minutes until the next meeting scheduled on August 15, 2022.

Voting to Approve: J. Gay, A. Abid, J. Gorman, C. lino, E. Nunes, K. Zandi

Motion passed unanimously (6-0-0)

Approval of Clerk Invoice:

Kathy and Jamie briefly reviewed with the Commission the Clerk invoice for services rendered.

Motion #2 - Cathy lino *Moved* and Joan Gay *Seconded* a motion to approve the invoice in the amount of \$350.00 to Clerk, Jamie Sciascia, as presented.

Voting to Approve: J. Gay, A. Abid, J. Gorman, C. lino, E. Nunes, K. Zandi

Motion passed unanimously (6-0-0)

Updates from Working Groups:

Working Group 1 - C. lino, C. Jacob & J. Gorman

Cathy, Casey and Joanne researched and discussed Article IV, Elections and Elective Officers, Section 4.2, Eligibility v. Election.

The Working Group reviewed and discussed Section 5.1, Board of Selectmen. The Working Group presented their recommendation that no person can hold two elective positions in the Government of Killingworth, including the Board of Education, excluding the Justice of the Peace. Further, no person shall run for one elected position in the Government of Killingworth in the same election cycle.

The Working Group also researched Article IV, Board of Selectmen, Section 6.1 Composition. They presented their recommendation to add into the language that a Selectman cannot hold another elective position, and also to remove that they can't be appointed to anything else, except as may be specifically provided for in other sections of the Charter.

The Working Group is recommending no changes to the number of Selectmen in the Town of Killingworth.

Working Group 2 - E. Nunes, A. Abid, J. Gay

Eric, Arjumund and Joan researched the possibility of adding Voters to Article V Section 5-2, Eligibility For Appointment. Eric and Arjumund presented the Working Group's recommendation to add Voter to be eligible for appointment to Killingworth Boards and Committees. Pros included: having interested Voters in serving Killingworth able to be appointed, attracting more volunteers, and having a larger pool of candidates. Additionally, the town meeting includes Voters. Cons included: resistance by Townspeople and the potential for Out-of-Town Voters not living in Killingworth. However, the vetting process by the Town Political Party Committees and the Board of Selectmen would ensure appropriate Voters for appointment. The Working Group also led a discussion on the potential for US Citizens to be eligible for appointment. At the next meeting, Joan will present the CT State Statutes' definitions of Elector and Voter.

Motion #3 - Cathy lino *Moved* and Joanne Gorman *Seconded* a motion to approve the proposed language as presented under Section 4-2, Eligibility for Election, subject to approval by Legal Counsel, and to include The Board of Education and exclude the Justice of the Peace under section 4-2(b).

Voting to Approve: J. Gay, A. Abid, J. Gorman, C. lino, E. Nunes, K. Zandi

Motion passed unanimously (6-0-0)

Proposed changes under Section 4-2 are as follows:

4-2(b) - No person shall hold two elected positions in the Government of Killingworth simultaneously, including the Board of Education, excluding the Justice of the Peace.

4-2(c) - No person shall run for more than one elected position in the Government of Killingworth in the same election cycle.

4-2(d) - No language changed in this paragraph, but since there were additions, this paragraph is now numbered as 4-2(d).

Motion #4 - Joanne Gorman *Moved* and Cathy lino *Seconded* a motion to accept changes made to Section 6-1, Composition, as presented.

Proposed changes under 6-1 are as follows:

Deletion of “during his/her term” and “or to be appointed to any other Office, Board, Commission,”

Addition of the language “while” and “any other elected position”

The language now reads - No member of the Board of Selectmen shall, while in any office, hold any other elected position or position of employment in the Government of Killingworth, except as may be specifically provided for in other sections of this Charter.

Voting to Approve: J. Gay, A. Abid, J. Gorman, C. lino, E. Nunes, K. Zandi

Motion passed unanimously (6-0-0)

Feedback from Several Towns Regarding Number of Selectmen (Kathy):

Kathy gave a summary on her feedback she received from other towns with a similar population to Killingworth regarding the Number of Selectmen. She followed up with Bolton, Marlborough, Columbia and Lebanon all of which have 4 year terms. Those towns all stated they don't have trouble getting people to run during an election period, or when there is a vacancy, having very active political parties in town. The main reason for each of those towns going larger is continuity. Kathy followed up with both the Republican and Democratic Town Committee Chairs of Killingworth to get their prescriptive on potentially increasing the number of Selectmen and/or term limits. Both Chairs were not in favor of increasing the number, or extending the term, and believed it would deter candidates from running.

The CRC had a brief discussion and agreed to stay with a 3 Selectmen Board.

Status of Charter Edits (Casey):

No Report due to Casey's absence.

Next Steps:

Working Group 2 - Joan will continue the discussion of Section 5-4 at the next meeting scheduled on August 15th.

Chair, Zandi, briefly reviewed the Charter List, stating the two next largest scope items are the Board of Finance and Ethics. C. lino suggested the possibility of reviewing the Fire Commission section next. K. Zandi asked the Commission to review the Charter List, which she will circulate again, and think about next topics for discussion, and areas of topic of interest. She also suggested the possibility of switching up the Working Groups by 2 sets of 3 or 3 sets of 2.

Adjournment:

Motion #5 - Cathy lino *Moved* and Joanne Gorman *Seconded* a motion to adjourn the meeting at approximately 9:15 p.m.

Voting to Approve: J. Gay, A. Abid, J. Gorman, C. lino, E. Nunes, K. Zandi

Motion passed unanimously (6-0-0)

Submitted By: Jamie Sciascia, Clerk