

**MEETING OF THE KILLINGWORTH
CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION**

Monday, August 29, 2022 7:00 p.m. via GoToMeeting

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

Members Excused: Joanne Gorman

Visitors (as identified on screen): First Selectman, Nancy Gorski and Clerk, Jamie Sciascia

The meeting was Called to Order at 7:13 p.m. by K. Zandi, Chair

Public Comment Summary:

Joanne Gorman was having technical difficulties; therefore, Joanne left the meeting. She will provide her report at our next meeting.

Approval of Minutes:

Motion #1 - Joan Gay *Moved* and Casey Jacob *Seconded* a motion to *accept the* Minutes of August 15, 2022 as presented.

Voting to Approve: J. Gay, A. Abid, C. Jacob, C. lino, E. Nune\s, K. Zandi

Motion passed unanimously (6-0-0)

Updates from Working Groups:

Working Group #1 presented their recommendation changing the First Selectman term to 4 years and leaving the term for Selectmen at 2 years. The Pros for changing First Selectman term to 4 years:

- Possibly easier to recruit because an employed candidate would have to give up his/her job if elected because this is a fulltime job.
- There is a long learning curve.
- It encourages a long-term view and long-term planning.
- Campaigning every two years takes time and money and takes you away from the job.
- First Selectman is head of administration in town hall and having the “boss” change every two years is hard for the town employees and perhaps less effective for the town

The Pros for leaving the Selectmen terms at 2 years:

- A new candidate might be more willing to run if “only” two years, in case they don’t like it.
- Electing Selectmen every two years provides a more frequent voice for the public

The Cons for changing First Selectman term to 4 years:

- If Electors are not happy with the performance of the First Selectman, it is longer to the next election
- Might be an impediment for a new candidate who is unsure if he/she will like the role

The Cons for leaving Selectmen terms at 2 years:

- having to run every two years (lots of time and money)

The CRC had a conversation in length about whether or not they are comfortable based on the feedback from both the Chairs of the DTC and RTC, extending the term for both the First Selectman to 4 years and leaving the term of Selectmen to 2-years. Concerns about recruiting candidates making it more difficult if position terms were increased, and on the other side extending the term might make it easier based on the learning curve and being more productive also not having to campaign after a few years were discussed. Both First Selectman Gorski, and prior First Selectman Iino, gave their input. Further, the CRC discussed that if it did recommend lengthening the term of the First Selectman, possibly putting this item separate, to stand on its own, when it goes to referendum so it wouldn't hold up the other items which are mainly updates and corrections. Casey Jacob suggested inviting the DTC and RTC Chairs to one of the CRC meetings to discuss the pros and cons of extending the First Selectman's term.

Motion #2 - Casey Jacob **Moved** and Cathy Iino **Seconded** a motion to invite RTC Chair Laura Lefko and DTC Chair Annie Stirna to join the CRC at the same meeting, for a discussion of the pros and cons of extending the term of the First Selectman.

Casey Jacob **Amended** and Cathy Iino **Seconded** the motion that we invite the leadership of the RTC and the DTC to meet with the CRC at the same meeting, date to be determined, to discuss the possibility of extending the term for the First Selectman.

After discussion, the CRC decided not to take up the motion to invite the leadership of the RTC and DTC to a meeting; therefore, the motion was **withdrawn** by Casey Jacob and **the withdrawal was seconded** by Cathy Iino.

Chair Zandi mentioned getting public input, and putting this topic to a public hearing would be helpful before the CRC votes on it. Discussion of getting a Legal opinion in terms of putting this topic separate on the referendum was discussed. Chair Zandi suggested not voting on anything since Joanne Gorman wasn't in attendance. There was a Consensus not to vote on it until after public comment at the next public hearing. Casey Jacob suggested to advise the public that the recommendation was made, and since it was a bigger topic, the CRC decided to wait to hear input before bringing it to a vote.

Working Group 2 made their recommendation regarding Voters and Electors who are eligible to vote, discussing all the pros and cons ultimately recommending that Voters can serve in a non-voting advisory role. Joan Gay looked at 15 Charters prior to making this recommendation. Cathy Iino spoke with Steve Mednick who advised that he is in support of the non-Electors being able to serve as voting members of appointed committees.

Motion #3 - Eric Nunes **Moved** and Joan Gay **Seconded** a motion to amend Section 5-2(a) to: Only electors of the Town of Killingworth shall be eligible for appointment. A person ceasing to

be an elector of the Town shall cease to hold office in the town, and the office will be deemed vacant. Voters may be appointed to serve in a non-voting advisory role.

Voting to Approve: J. Gay, A. Abid, C. Jacob, E. Nunes

Voting Not to Approve: C. lino, K. Zandi

Motion passed (4-2-0).

Working Group 2 makes the following recommendation and Casey Jacob suggested making two separate motions.

Motion #4 - Eric Nunes **Moved** and Casey Jacob **Seconded** a motion to delete under Section 5-4c “an announcement as prescribed by law at his/her option either newspapers or media in” and replace it with “publish the vacancy as prescribed by law” as presented.

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

Motion passed unanimously (6-0-0)

Working Group 2 made a recommendation to add language to the Charter that the Town Political Party Committees shall make their recommendation for appointment to the BOS after consultation with the Chair of the Board or Commission having a vacancy. Casey Jacob suggested putting it in Section 5-4 d, since it's part of the process of appointment, rather than in Section 5-4 b as the Working Group suggested. Cathy lino raised for discussion whether this role of consulting the Chair of the Board/Commission with a vacancy would be better for the BOS to do, rather than the chair of the pertinent Town Political Party Committee. The Working Group was looking at it from a process standpoint and thought it should take place with the Chair of the pertinent Town Political Party Committee, feeling it should happen at the lower level first, and then move to the higher level.

Motion #5 - Eric Nunes **Moved** and Joan Gay **Seconded** a motion to modify the Charter to include the following: The Town Political Party Committees shall make their recommendation to the Board of Selectmen after consultation with the Chair of the Board or Commission regarding the appointment with the understanding that Casey Jacob may suggest slightly varied language when she makes draft edits to the Charter.

The motion did not include the Charter location for this new information.

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

Motion passed unanimously (6-0-0).

Casey Jacob suggested that the item of Charter Edits be moved to the front of the Agenda for the next meeting so that the CRC could see her method, and give her guidance on whether or not she should go in another direction.

Joan Gay spoke briefly about contacting Town Clerk, Dawn Mooney, about other Appointed Boards and Commissions, and reported that she has updated the list of Regional Organizations, taking into consideration pertinent Statutes.

Working Group 2 has more recommendations which will be presented at our next meeting.

Adjournment:

Chair Zandi adjourned the meeting at approximately 9:13 p.m.

Submitted By: Jamie Sciascia, Clerk