

**SPECIAL MEETING OF THE KILLINGWORTH
CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION
(PUBLIC HEARING)**

Monday, December 5, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. via GoToMeeting

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

Members Absent: None.

Visitors (as identified on screen): First Selectman, Nancy Gorski, Laura Lelfko, Eileen Blewett, Richard Pleines, Eileen Unger Pleines, Elizabeth Doyle Disbrow, Don Offner, Natalie Ortolidrew, Annie Stirna (Arrived 7:46 p.m.) and Clerk, Jamie Sciascia

Called to Order; The meeting was Called to Order at 7:11 p.m. by K. Zandi, Chair. There were technical difficulties accessing the Web Link; therefore the Public Hearing started later than expected.

Chair Zandi welcomed Community Members and introduced the Charter Revision Commission Members. She went over the Overview of the Timeline, the Charter Revision Process, the CRC Meetings, Public Hearings, Public Input. Further, Chair Zandi went over the Public Comment Process, by either submitting comments via email to the charterrevision@townofkillingworth.com or sending them into Town Hall. Chair Zandi discussed the CRC's recommended changes to date and also the questions the CRC is still considering: should the First Selectman position be extended from the current 2 years to 4 years?

The following Community Members addressed the Charter Revision Commission:

Laura Lelfko, Chairman of the Killingworth Republican Town Committee:

Laura addressed her concerns (during several speaking points) with: 1) the change in the inability to run for two offices simultaneously, she believes it's in violation of State statute; 2) disagrees with requiring RTC and DTC chairs to consult with Boards/Commissions before making nomination recommendations; 3) Non-Voting Advisory Role for Voters on Boards and Commissions, she inquired as to what is it based on, and believes if someone is to serve on an advisory role, they need to have expertise in a specific area. She also feels that Committees and Boards can invite people to speak versus having permanent members appointed who are not voting members since it could potentially influence the Commission and also feels this position does not have any more value than public comment. She also suggested there should be a limit on how many (non-voting) Voters be appointed to any one Board/Commission 4) she is uncertain about the First Selectman position of 2 or 4 years, and believes its difficult to get positions in general and would probably make it more difficult to find a suitable candidate if the term was changed to 4 years; 5) She expressed her displeasure about proceeding with tonight's Public Hearing and feels we should have rescheduled due to the technical difficulties so more of

the public could attend and give their input; 6) She echoed Mr. Pleines comments regarding the Town Manager position and recommends this topic be considered as soon as possible.

Richard Pleines from Killingworth: He spoke about the benefits of having a Town Manager position and feels by having one it would take a lot of the politics out of the Killingworth governance. He also stressed his displeasure about the CRC not addressing this topic at this time.

Elizabeth Disbow, Administrative Assistant to First Selectman: She feels extremely lucky to get First Selectman Gorski to serve the Town with having so many years of experience prior to taking the job. Elizabeth is in favor of increasing the First Selectman term to 4 years.

Eileen Blewett from Killingworth: She is in agreement with Richard Pleines about taking the time to address all issues big or small, even if it's a separate question to Community Members on the ballot in November.

Eileen Unger Pleines from Killingworth. She believes it would be beneficial to have non-voting members of the Community able to join Boards and Commissions from a business owner standpoint.

First Selectman Gorski will put out a Constant Contact tomorrow advising that the CRC was aware of the difficulties of the meeting link for the public hearing and that they are working on scheduling another one as soon as possible.

Chair Zandi expressed the CRC's gratitude for coming to the hearing and providing their input. She expressed her sincere apologies for the technical difficulties.

Adjournment:

Chair Zandi adjourned the meeting at approximately 8:04 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jamie Sciascia

Clerk