

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

Thursday, March 2, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. via GoToMeeting

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

Members Excused: Eric Nunes

Visitors (as identified on screen): Eileen Unger, Laura Lefko, Geoff Cook, Bill Tobelman, Tom and Lucinda Hogarty, Elizabeth Disbrow, John Samperi, JD, Annie Stirna and Jamie Sciascia

Called to Order: The meeting was Called to Order at 7:05 p.m. by K. Zandi, Chair.

This is the fourth Public Hearing held. 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, Topics being deferred to a future CRC due to time constraints and CRC's recommendations for the Charter. The deadline is next Friday, March 10th to hand over the CRC's recommendations for revisions to the Charter to the BOS for their own review. The BOS will hold at least one Public Hearing, and may ask the CRC for further revisions. Town Counsel will review all recommendations before it goes out to Referendum in November 2023. Chair Zandi invited continued written public comments to: charterrevision@townofkillingworth.com which will be seen by the Board of Selectmen. Chair Zandi also stated how thankful the CRC is for all the public feedback that was brought forward. Some of the CRC's recommendations were revised following public comment and she gave several examples. The CRC will also recommend to the BOS to form a Governance Study Committee, appoint a group to develop a Code of Ethics, and appoint an Ethics Commission to implement the Code of Ethics.

The following Community Members addressed the Charter Revision Commission:

Laura Lefko addressed the CRC with several concerns: 1) Regarding the recommendation that voters can't run for two elected offices at the same time, she feels it is in violation of state statutes; 2) The Special Meeting scheduled earlier today at 5:00 p.m. had not been put on the Town Calendar and therefore it is in violation of FOIA; 3) Criticized allowing voters to be appointed to Boards and Commissions as non-voting advisory members; 4) Criticized the CRC for holding working meetings that were not noticed to the public with no agendas nor minutes and claimed they are in violation of state statutes and FOIA. Ms. Lefko stated Tom Heddick of FOI Commission stated they are illegal meetings; 5) She further stated that all the work the CRC has done is invalid and the town should hire a firm to write a new Charter.

Chair Zandi offered information correcting one of Ms. Lefko's statements. In fact, following public input, the CRC had withdrawn a recommendation that Voters be allowed to be appointed to Boards and Commissions as non-voting members.

Annie Stira addressed the CRC: She thanked the CRC for their hard work and volunteering their time on the Commission; she thinks the recommendations are fair and that it is a good idea to have the form of Town Government issue put aside for consideration at another time. She is also in support of establishing an Ethics Committee and Policy. She spoke about the Working Group meetings, stated that the BOF breaks off into working groups and also believes that the BOE does it as well.

Cathy Iino advised that the CRC is changing the requirement that notification of meetings be published in a daily medium.

Laura Lefko thanked the CRC, and then reiterated her belief that the use of Working Groups is not legal.

Adjournment:

Chair Zandi adjourned the meeting at approximately 7:34 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jamie Sciascia

Clerk