

## **CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION**

The Charter Revision held a Public Hearing in the Town Council Chambers on Thursday, March 26, 2015 at 7:00 pm.

Present: Chairperson Dan Silver, Vice Chairperson Steve Kirsche, Louis Laccavole, Mary Pelletier and T. William Knapp

Also Present: Town Manager Jeff Bridges

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Silver at 7:03 pm.

Chairperson Silver gave an overview of the appointment, purpose and duties of the Charter Revision Commission. He also explained the

### *Public Comment*

- David Caruk, 149 Broad St
  - Mr. Caruk spoke on the topic the Ethics revisions. He referred to the Board of Education issue and that censuring and encouraging someone to resign accomplishes nothing if that person refuses to do so. His main issue is the cost to the Town. He feels that the changes made by the Commission do not address this aspect of ethics violations.
- Tom Ragonese, 140 Black Birch, Chairperson of Parks & Recreation Board
  - Mr. Ragonese stated that in October of 2014, at the request of the Commission, he came to a Charter Revision meeting to clarify whether the Parks & Recreation Board functioned as an advisory or rule-making board. He took the question to his board and they voted to remain as an advisory board, which the Commission then voted to make the corresponding changes to the Charter. He also stated that the Board was surprised when they read in the newspaper that the Commission had changed its decision and gone against the recommendations of the Parks & Recreation Board and made them a rule-making board. He affirmed the Board's recommendation that they be an advisory board. He said that there are checks and balances in place and that the Director of Parks & Recreation cannot make any changes without first bringing the ideas to the Board.
- Kathy Bagley, Director of Parks & Recreation, Town of Wethersfield
  - Ms. Bagley reiterated Mr. Ragonese's statements. She stated that the major Parks & Recreation rules are Town Ordinances under "Peace and Good Order" in the Code. She explained the process as to how these rules, as well as fees and other changes, are enacted. She went on to give examples as to how the Board and the Department work well together. She stated that she feels that the Board should maintain its advisory function.
  - Vice Chairperson Kirsche then asked Ms. Bagley, as an example, if she would go to Town Manager Jeff Bridges if she wanted to stop fishing at the Cove at 7:00pm. She answered that she would go to the Board first and take their recommendation. Mr. Ragonese then stated that he believes that that is how it has worked for many years.
  - Chairperson Silver then asked Ms. Bagley if she recalled any decisions of the Board that she felt she did not want to honor or pass on to the Manager or Council. She stated that although there were times that she did not agree with

the Board, she always passed on their recommendations even though they didn't always progress beyond the Manager level. Mr. Ragonese then gave an example of a time that Ms. Bagley disagreed with the Board but proceeded with their recommendation anyway.

**Commissioner Knapp moved for adjournment. Commissioner Laccavole seconded. All those present voted "AYE" unanimously. The motion passed. 6-0-0**

**Meeting adjourned at 7:29 pm.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Sónia Betz, Secretary