

BLOOMFIELD TOWN CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION

There was a special meeting of the above referenced subcommittee held on Saturday, March 23, 2024, at 10:00 a.m. in Council Chambers at Bloomfield Town Hall, 800 Bloomfield Avenue, Bloomfield, CT.

Committee Members: Joseph Suggs, Chair, Bradley Klein, Dwight Bolton and Elvin Turner

Absent: Erica Coleman

Others present: Mayor Danielle C. Wong and Town Attorney Andrew Crumbie

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m.

These minutes were transcribed based on notes from Mayor Wong and Chairman Suggs from this initial meeting.

Review of the Charter Revision Commission Process

Attorney Crumbie and Mayor Wong welcomed all the appointed Commissioners to the Town Charter Revision Commission. This group of individuals who have been appointed by the Town Council have very diverse philosophies, experiences, and skills. They all have a shared desire to review and consider improvements with our local town government structure.

Attorney Crumbie reviewed the basic steps for revising/developing a municipal charter, its purpose, and various legal aspects of the Town Charter. There are five basic steps that include: Initiation, Appointment, Public Hearings, Submission, Final Public Hearing. In addition, Attorney Crumbie gave a brief overview of open meeting laws and FOIA requirements as well.

Commission members discussed tentative scheduling, timing, and the completion of our work. They also discussed the feasibility of a referendum on proposed revisions for the November 5th, 2024, general election. We also discussed the overall purpose and the various legal aspects of the charter with town attorney Crumbie. We hope to secure the services of an attorney specializing in town charters to assist us in the process and in drafting of any proposed revisions.

Discussion and Possible Action concerning 2024 Meeting Schedule

The Commission members agreed to schedule their meetings twice a month through August. Meetings will be held on Thursdays at 7:00 p.m., and Saturdays, at 3:00 p.m. at the Town Hall. The Saturday meetings are an attempt by the Commission to be available when the public may have more time flexibility to participate in the process.

In addition, the Commission is required to schedule several public hearings and will permit public comments at the beginning of each regularly scheduled meeting. The Commission will also receive their charges from the

Town Council, consult with the Board of Education, Town Manager and Town administration very early in the process as their issues will likely represent much of the Commission work.

The Charter Revision Commission is tentatively targeting a September timeframe to prepare recommendations for Town Council consideration. They are in the process of working out the details on staffing the commission to prepare agendas, minutes, legal notices and provide other communications with the public.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 a.m.