

Town Charter Revision Commission Meeting – Saturday, April 27, 2024

Public Comments

In-Person:

1. **Suzette DeBeatham-Brown, 25 Fairfield Lane** asked the Commissioners to take the necessary time and attention that is needed to ensure an open, transparent and intentional Charter Revision process. She also asked the Commission to make decisions, not for just today but for the future of Bloomfield.
2. **Jennifer Marshall-Nealy, 57 Cliffmount Drive, Town Democratic Registrar** commented on the Town Charter, Chapter 2, Election of Officers, Section 201. She read the current charter language and made the following suggestion: Change the terms of office as an elected official from 2 years to 4 years and make it retroactive to January 2023. Mrs. Marshall-Nealy stated that the election of Registrar would take place in 2027, and thereafter every 4 years. She also commented on the work hours, job duties, and new early voting requirements.

Attorney Lawrence Widem of Crumbie Law Group clarified that the Town can't change the term of office to be retroactive. If approved, changes could occur with the next municipal election.

3. **Roger Bunker, 28 Old Village Road** inquired about the timing for the Charter Revision process. He asked if the Commission has plans to complete this initiative in time to be placed on the November 2024 presidential ballot.
4. **Bonnie Bercowetz, 492 Park Avenue** asked if the Commissioners would consider adding public comments at the end of the agenda as well, to give the public another opportunity to comment on the meeting after hearing discussions. In addition, she also stressed the importance of community engagement and information sharing with the public.

Virtual:

1. **Ava Biffer, 17 Terry Plains Road** briefly commented on the role of the library as a town department, by providing services, support and guardianship of free speech rights. She noted that it is not easy to balance the library's core mission within the structure of the Town Charter. Mrs. Biffer will provide additional comments in writing regarding her Charter Revision suggestions.