

Town of Prospect Charter Revision Commission
Unapproved Minutes
January 14, 2016

Board Members Present:

Chairman G. Gruber, P. Reed, R. Nash, P. Krisavage, T. Galvin, E. Cranney, J. Paulella, B. Hiscox, K. Blinstrubas

Chairman Gruber called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm.

Motion by T. Galvin, seconded by P. Krisavage to accept the minutes of the 12/22/15 meeting. All in favor with the exception of K. Blinstrubas who abstained.

Public Participation:

Fred Bonyia, 18 Woodcrest Drive, Prospect, Ct commented on the length of the term for elected officials. Four years is better than two years as there would be less turn around and less expensive. If the election were held the same time as a Presidential election, more voters would participate.

Mike Palmiere, 19 Amber Ct, Prospect, Chairman of the Board of Recreation provided an Ideas Request Form regarding section 6.02 – Recreation Commission. He would like to change the name to Parks and Recreation Commission. He also suggested using the proposed language for third paragraph under section 6.02: The Parks and Recreation Commission shall have authority to appoint the Director of Parks and Recreation. Said Commission shall plan, manage, and supervise the use, construction, and maintenance of parks, playgrounds, swimming areas, playing fields, indoor recreation areas and other recreation areas and facilities owned or controlled by the Town, except those under the jurisdiction of the Board of Education.

Chris Moffo, Director of Recreation was also in attendance and supported the above position.

There was a discussion of how Mr. Palmiere's suggestion differs from the current charter. Supervising the construction and maintenance of parks, etc is added. Members discussed the history of the position of Director of Recreation, job description, and performance reviews. The Board of Recreation evaluates the current Director.

The Charter Revision Commission began discussing proposed changes to Chapter 1: Incorporation and General Powers as presented separately by Commission members B. Nash and G. Gruber.

The Commission is in favor of adding the following **Preamble**:

We the people of the Town of Prospect, under the Constitution and laws of the State of Connecticut, in order to secure the benefits of local self-government and to provide for an honest and accountable government do hereby adopt this Charter and confer upon the town the following

powers, subject to the following restrictions, and prescribed by the following procedures and governmental structure. By this action, we secure the benefits of self-determination and affirm the values of representative democracy, strong political leadership, citizen participation, and regional cooperation.

Discussion of the remaining sections of Chapter 1 included better language, more clarification, historical perspective and the definition of "special acts." Attorney Knott defined "special acts" as special legislation pertaining specifically to the Town vs. across the board state law. B. Nash would like to see the Charter become more understandable.

The Commission proposed the following:

Chapter 1: Incorporation and General Powers:

Section 1.01: Incorporation – leave as is currently in the Charter.

Section 1.02: Rights and Obligations – leave as is currently in the Charter.

Section 1.03: General Grant Powers – leave as is currently in the Charter.

Section 1.04: Existing Laws and Ordinances – modify language in the current Charter to read as follows:

All ordinances and by-laws of the Town shall continue in full force and effect, except insofar as they are inconsistent with the provisions of this Charter.

All special acts or parts of special acts relating to the Town of Prospect inconsistent with the provisions of this Charter are repealed.

Chapter 2: Election and Elective and Appointive Offices:

Commission members P. Reed and K. Blinstrubas proposed separate revisions on the sections of this chapter.

Discussion included terms of 4 years vs. 2 years and the pros and cons of each. B. Hiscox mentioned that it is extremely difficult to find people willing to run for elected office as well as for Boards and Commissions and was concerned that longer terms might make it more difficult.

Section 2.01: General:

Regarding 4 year vs. 2 year terms, based on no clear decision by CRC (the Commission is split), the Commission decided to table the decision of 4 year vs. 2 year terms; thereby allowing the Commissioners the opportunity to think it through more and discuss at a later date.

The Commission discussed appointed vs. elected for the Town Clerk, Town Assessor, Tax Collector and Treasurer and were in favor of appointed.

The Commission proposed:

- (1) Rename **Chapter 2: Elections, Elective Offices and Appointive Offices.**
- (2) The second to last paragraph regarding commencement of terms – remove the time 8pm.
- (3) The Commission agreed that the Town Clerk, Town Assessor, Tax Collector and Treasurer shall be

changed from elected to being appointed by the Mayor with the approval of the Town Council, for a term of 2 years. Therefore, delete these from Section 2.01 (b).

(4) after the last paragraph in Section: 2.01 General – add an item (c) to read as follows:

At the state election to be held quadrennially on the first Tuesday after the first Monday of November, there shall be elected: two (2) Registrar of Voters, in accordance with Section 9-189a of the Connecticut General Statutes, as amended, who shall serve for terms of four (4) years each; and Justices of the Peace in accordance with Sections 9-183a and 9-184 of the Connecticut General Statutes, as amended, who shall serve for terms of four (4) years each. Said Registrars of Voters and Justices of the Peace shall perform the duties prescribed by the Connecticut General Statutes.

Section 2.02: Eligibility:

The Commission discussed residency requirements for elective offices such as the Town Clerk, Town Assessor, Tax Collector and Treasurer and for appointive offices such as Boards and Commissions. It was decided to replace item (b) under Section 2.02 with:

(b) All appointive boards and commissions shall be filled by resident electors of the Town. Any person appointed to an appointive board or commission as a resident elector of the Town who ceases to be a resident elector of the Town during the term of the office shall thereupon cease to hold the appointive position.

Section 2.03: Voting Districts: Leave as is currently in Charter.

Section 2.04: Minority Representation: Leave as is currently in Charter.

Section 2.05: Vacancy in Elective Office and Appointive Offices: Leave as is currently in Charter.

Section 2.06: Breaking a Tie: In the second paragraph on the bottom of page 4, two instances, replace the term “voting machine” with “voting tabulator”. K. Blinstrubas will check state statute.

Section 2.07: Records and Records: Leave as is currently in Charter.

There was no additional public participation.

Due to time, the Commission postponed discussion of Chapter 5 until the next meeting.

Motion by E. Cranney, seconded by J. Paulella to adjourn the meeting at 9:15 pm. Unanimous.

G. Gruber, Chairman

C. DeBiase, Clerk

PROSPER, CONN
TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE
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2016 JAN 19 AM 8:47
Margaret A. DeBiase
TOWN CLERK