

**TOWN OF SOMERS  
CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
Monday, December 3, 2012  
7:00PM – Somers Town Hall**

1. Call to Order  
*The meeting was called to order by chairman Tim Potrikus at 7:00 p.m.*
2. Members Present  
*Ralph Williams, Erik Ness and Linda Roberts*
3. Approval of Minutes from November 26  
*A motion was made to approve the minutes of November 26<sup>th</sup>  
Williams/Ness/3ayes/Roberts abstaining*
4. Add/Delete Agenda Items  
*A motion was made to add meeting dates for January and February as Item 9d  
and constables as Item 6a. Williams/Roberts/unanimous*
5. Correspondence  
*The chairman received an e-mail from the Town Clerk outlining the scope and  
cost for an update of the general code. He will forward it to the Commission  
members for review and discussion at the next meeting.*
6. Review and Discuss First Draft on Terms of Office for all remaining elected and  
appointed officials.  
*The chairman presented a draft for review and discussion. The consensus of the  
members is that all positions should have four year terms and no more than a  
bare majority should be on the ballot at any time. To accomplish this, two year  
terms for some seats may have to be established for the first election cycle after  
the charter revision is passed. The Chairman will add the two year terms and  
present an updated draft at the next meeting.*  
(a.) Constables  
*It was noted that the positions of constable was eliminated during the last charter  
revision. The Commission will follow the Town Attorney's advice and allow the  
current members to serve out their term.*
7. Review and Discuss First Draft of the position of elected assessor(s).  
*The chairman presented a draft for review and discussion. The consensus was to  
eliminate the elected board of assessors and authorize the appointment of a duly  
qualified assessor by a panel consisting of two members of the board of finance,  
one member of the board of selectman and one non-elected individual with a  
background in property management or property evaluation. A final draft will be  
presented and voted on at the next meeting. It was noted that all references to the  
treasurer should be changed to the director of finance.*
8. Discussion and Vote on Charter provisions for the make-up of the Board of  
Selectmen, terms of office and the eligibility of a candidate First Selectmen to fill  
a seat on the Board of Selectmen based on vote totals. (Attached)

*The attached draft was discussed in detail. It was decided that state statutes would prevail regarding the replacement of a selectman unable to perform his/her duties. A motion was made to adopt the proposed recommendation regarding the make-up of the board of selectmen, terms of office and eligibility of a candidate for first selectman to fill a seat on the board of selectmen based on total votes with the removal of section 4.6 and accompanying rationale.*

*Williams/Ness/unanimous*

9. New Business

- a. Discussion on Town Meeting Confirmation of appointments to the following: Board of Assessment Appeals, Planning Commission, Zoning Commission, and Zoning Board of Appeals.

*Confirmations of appointments by town meeting were discussed in depth. The consensus was to eliminate this requirement.*

- b. Discussion on residency requirements for positions of civil preparedness, town attorney, or other roles.

*Residency requirements for selected positions were discussed. It was decided to change section 5.1(b) of the charter to read "All members of appointive board shall be electors and residents of the town and their positions shall be considered vacated upon ceasing to be electors or residents of the town unless otherwise specified by charter or ordinance. Provisions for non-residents to serve in selected positions will be addressed in the appropriate sections pertaining to those positions.*

- c. Discussion on combining Planning Commission and Zoning Commission  
*Discussion was held regarding combining of the planning and zoning commissions. The consensus was to keep them as separate commissions so they could independently perform the functions assigned to them. Ralph Williams will present written rationale for this decision at the next meeting.*

- d. Future meetings

*Meetings for January & February will be held on Jan 14<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup> and Feb 4<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup>. The chairman will send an e-mail to the Town Clerk informing her of these dates.*

10. Action Items/Agenda for next meeting – December 17

*Charter provisions for the term limits and terms for elected and appointed officials*

*Charter provisions for the elected board of assessors and elected constables*

11. Adjournment

*A motion was made to adjourn at 8:00 p.m.*

*Williams/Ness/unanimous*

Respectfully submitted

Linda Roberts  
Acting Recording Secretary