

CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION  
BOROUGH OF STONINGTON  
Minutes of Special Meeting  
March 6, 2018

1. Call to order at 6:00pm
2. Roll call -- Present: Jesse Diggs, Chris Errichetti, Richard Hanratty, Beth Leamon, Don Maranell, Carol Martin, Shaun Mastroianni, Tim Metzger, John Spencer  
Absent: Jennifer O'Brien, Betty Richards
3. Correspondence – Letter from Atty Kepple – to be reviewed at end of agenda
4. Public Comment

Comm. Diggs expressed concern that Commission may be losing sight of need for volunteerism and that simply shrinking the number of burgess positions while combining job descriptions would logically dissuade volunteerism because duties of resultant jobs would be that much larger

- Asserts that Borough is burdened by all the responsibilities of larger cities, such as Hartford
- Suggests reduction in number of governmental functions where possible
  - For example, P&Z function arguably constitutes half of overall governmental positions yet could be transferred to Town

Comm. Leamon opined that current draft employs economies of scale and eliminates unnecessary positions

Discussion, with assistance of Warden's comments, evolved to general consensus that it is easier to fill appointed positions than elected ones

- Elected positions entail risk of engaging in then-current hot issues
- Appointed positions allow those who don't want to knock on doors but are otherwise interested in promoting the public good to participate
- Most important issue is providing Warden with support on regulatory issues (FEMA and storm-water)

- Increasing number of staff positions does not require charter change

Comm. Maranell pointed out that Street Commissioner has few collateral duties and Police Commissioner is almost completely redundant

- Established pay rates accurately reflect actual duties
- Party chairs actively seek able volunteers

Comm. Metzger pointed out that reorganization is not sole tool available though admitted that mixing things up does not make them go away

Comm. Hanratty pointed out that volunteerism is not directly affected by describing or not describing positions  
Warden reminded that commissioner positions are appointed by BWB amongst those who previously volunteered for the general elected position of burgess  
Comm. Diggs concluded discussion with suggestion that efforts should be made to market governmental functions

Discussion of letter from Attorney Kepple

On choice of election day, Comm. Maranell opined that May elections avoid confusion with Town elections and more voters generally present than in November while Comm. Leamon felt that November elections catch more attention

Town registrar should be consulted as to actual availability of options  
Comm. Diggs pointed out that if they remain in May, more marketing efforts should be made (addressing Comm. Leamon's point)

5. Return to detailed Charter work

6. Next meeting will be March 21 at 6:00pm

Intention is to perform comprehensive review

Want to have at least one more public hearing on or before April 21

7. Adjourned at 7:54pm

Respectfully submitted,  
Christopher Errichetti, Secretary  
March 22, 2018