

Attachment 2

Final Report of the 2016 Groton 2016 Charter Revision Commission

CRC responses to Town Council recommendations on CRC Draft Report

The Town Council met on October 17, 2017 to consider and act upon their recommendations on the CRC Draft Report. The items below were favorably voted on by the Town Council at that meeting. The CRC responses to those recommendations are indicated below for each of those recommendations.

Item 1. a: Recommend that the Charter Revision Commission review changes and questions per the Town Attorney's review dated September 28, 2017, of the Charter Revision Draft Report, especially noting that the Charter Revision Commission should reconsider the use of the term "stakeholder", look at the wording for an Ethics Commission, and Employees serving on the Town Council and Board of Education.

- The CRC addressed the issues raised by the Town Attorney's review both among themselves and, on four occasions, with the Town Attorney, and adopted many of them as reflected in comments throughout the Final Report and by modifications to the Charter amendments as proposed in the Draft Report. With specific regard to the following items the CRC decided to: remove the term "Stakeholder" and replace it with the term "elector"; eliminate the requirement for an Ethics Commission; and to amend the language about employees serving on the Town Council and Board of Education to comply with the CGS.

Item 1.b: Recommend that the Charter Revision Commission determine a specific effective date(s) for implementation of any amendments.

- The CRC agreed with this recommendation. The effective dates are as follows in the CRC Final Report;
 - The RTM will be disbanded on the effective date of the Revised Charter.
 - Interim BOF members will be appointed by the TC within 30 days of the effective date of the Revised Charter and will serve until BOF members are elected. Members will first be elected to the BOF in the 2019 municipal elections.

Item 2.a: Recommend to retain the definitions for Board of Education, Council, Town Attorney, Town Clerk, and Town Council, along with Representative Town Meeting if that body is retained, in the Glossary of terms.

- The CRC agreed with this recommendation. These terms have been retained in the Glossary.

Item 3.a: Recommend that the Charter Revision Commission Final Report contain the provision for the replacement of a Representative Town Meeting with a Board of Finance.

- The final report of the CRC includes the elimination of the RTM and the establishment of a BOF. However it is the consensus of the CRC that the BOF is not a replacement for the RTM. The Budget Referendum effectively replaces the RTM.

Item 3.a-2: (if item 3.a passes): Recommend that the Board of Finance be set up by districts.

- The CRC agreed with this recommendation. The final report of the CRC provides for the BOF to be set-up by districts.

Item 3.a-3: (if item 3.a passes): Recommend that the Board of Finance terms be set as synchronous with one another instead of being staggered terms.

- The CRC agreed with this recommendation. The final report of the CRC provides for the BOF to have synchronous terms.

Item 4.a: Recommend that the CRC Final Report contain the provisions for a Budget Referendum.

- The CRC agreed with this recommendation. The CRC Final Report contains a provision for a Budget Referendum

Item 4.a-3: (if Item 4.a-2 passes): Recommend that in the event a minimum of 15% of eligible voters is not reached, the proposed budget will be considered approved.

- The CRC voted to not accept this recommendation. There is no minimum voter requirement for the budget referendum in the CRC Final Report.

Item 5.a: Recommend the Charter Revision Commission revise timeline to allow sufficient time to obtain information on the State budget and to logistically have time to react and put a sound budget in place.

- The budget time-line has been revised, with input from the Director of Finance, in the CRC Final Report. However given that the CGS prevents municipalities from changing their Fiscal Year there was nothing the CRC could do to allow sufficient time to obtain information on the State budget and to logistically have time to react and put a sound budget in place given the great uncertainty in when the State budget will be approved and known to the Town.

Item 6.a-2: (If 6.a fails): Recommend the Charter Revision Commission retain the 2-year terms for Town Council members.

- The CRC disagreed with this recommendation. The 4-year terms for Town Council members remains in the CRC Final Report.

Item 6.b-2: (if 6.b fails): Recommend the Charter Revision Commission retain the synchronous terms for the Town Council members.

- The CRC agreed with this recommendation. Synchronous terms for Town Council members have been reinstated in the CRC Final Report.

Item 6.c: Recommend the Charter Revision Commission remove language imposing term limits on Council members.

- The CRC agreed with this recommendation. Language imposing term limits on Council members has been eliminated from the CRC Final Report.

Item 7.a: Recommend replacing 'The Council shall issue an annual Town report' under section 5.2 and changing to 'Town Manager shall issue an annual Town report' and place it under Section 7.2. Town Manager Powers and Duties.

- The CRC agreed with this recommendation. The CRC Final Report assigns responsibility for issuing the annual report to the Town Manager.

Item 9.a: Recommend altering language to change the Town Clerk from an elected position to an appointed position under the Town Manager.

- The CRC disagreed with this recommendation. In the CRC Final Report the Town Clerk position is retained as an elected position.