

Town of Manchester, Connecticut
Charter Revision Commission
Draft Minutes and Actions Taken
At November 26, 2024 Meeting

1. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:05 PM.

Present at the meeting were Commissioners Timothy Bergin, Diane Clare-Kearney, Emily Luna, and Timothy Becker, Thomas Ferguson, Audra Ricci, Michael Pohl, Harun Ahmed, and Richard Rader. Also present were Assistant Town Attorney John Sullivan, Assistant Town Manager Kasia Purciello, Town Clerk Dr. Maria Cruz, and Assistant Town Clerk Tianna Wright.

2. SWEARING-IN OF COMMISSIONERS

Dr. Maria Cruz administered the oath to the newly appointed Commissioners.

3. ACTION TAKEN - ELECTION OF CHAIR

Dr. Clare-Kerney nominated Timothy Bergin as Chair of the Board. The motion was seconded by Timothy Becker. No other nominations were offered.

The motion passed 9-0-0.

4. ACTION TAKEN - ELECTION OF VICE CHAIR

Audra Ricci nominated Thomas Ferguson for Vice Chair. The motion was seconded by Timothy Becker.

Chair Bergin nominated Dr. Clare-Kearney for Vice Chair. The motion was seconded by Emily Luna.

A roll call vote was held.

- i. Michael Pohl voted Diane Clare-Kearney
- ii. Harun Ahmed voted Diane Clare-Kearney
- iii. Emily Luna voted Diane Clare-Kearney
- iv. Diane Clare-Kearney voted Diane Clare-Kearney
- v. Richard Rader voted Thomas Ferguson
- vi. Tom Ferguson voted Thomas Ferguson
- vii. Audra Ricci voted Thomas Ferguson
- viii. Tim Becker voted Thomas Ferguson
- ix. Chair Bergin voted Diane Clare-Kearney

Diane Clare-Kearney was elected as Vice Chair of the Commission. 5-4

5. ACTION TAKEN - ELECTION OF SECRETARY

Commissioner Harun nominated Emily Luna for Secretary. The motion was seconded by Michael Pohl. No other nominations were offered.

The motion passed 9-0-0.

6. COMMUNICATIONS

There were no communications.

7. REPORTS

a. Town Attorney's Report

- i. Attorney Sullivan discusses the presentation he provided. There was a discussion of timelines, including due dates for the draft report target date of May 2025.

Chair Bergin states that the Commission can add items and will discuss a process for doing so in the next agenda item. In addition, the Commission must do one hearing before the draft report, one hearing after the draft report, and can hold additional hearings if the Commission would like to do so. Once the draft report is presented to Board of Directors (BoD), the BoD can provide feedback and the Commission can convene to adjust their recommendations as a result of that feedback. The draft report is due no later than August 1st. The commission discusses how these timelines allow for flexibility to hold a vote during municipal elections or gubernatorial elections.

Commissioner Becker asked to clarify the timeframe. Attorney Sullivan clarified that the election is 15 months from final accepted report.

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8. NON-SUBSTANTIVE REVIEW AND DISCUSSION OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS' RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CHARTER REVISION

Chair Bergin reviewed the charge of the Commission.

Commissioners asked for non-substantive clarification of some of the charges. Commissioner Pohl asked if Attorney Sullivan will provide other options on certain considerations.

9. COMMENT AND DISCUSSION BY COMMISSION MEMBERS ON ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDA OR OF GENERAL DISCUSSION

Chair Bergin stated that the Commission should electronically send new discussion items to Kasia Purciello, staff liaison, and CC Chair Bergin, to allow staff ample time to add the suggested items on the agenda and have time to prepare for the upcoming meeting.

Chair Bergin opens the floor to the Commission to state any additional items of interest.

Commissioner Pohl wants the Commission to examine the manner of how Manchester elects the Board of Education and explore the ways other Towns in the State elect Board of Education members and handle vacancies.

Commissioner Becker would like to examine the compensation of the Board of Directors. 10.

ACTION TAKEN – SETTING OF THE PUBLIC HEARING DATE

The public hearing will be held on December 17, 2024 at 6:30 PM in the Lincoln Center. This hearing will be followed by a regular meeting of the Commission.

11. ACTION TAKEN – SETTING OF FUTURE MEETING DATES

Tuesdays at 6:30

The Commission decides the next meetings should be held the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of each month at 6:30 PM.

12. ` ADJOURNMENT

At 6:50, there is a motion to adjourn by Commissioner Pohl. The motion is seconded by Commissioner Becker. Motion passes 9-0-0. The Commission is adjourned until the Public Hearing on December 17, 2024.