

CRC EMAILS 10/14/21-10/26/21

From: Jason Li <jasonli.fairfield@gmail.com>

Sent: Thursday, October 14, 2021 4:42 PM

To: CRC <CRC@fairfieldct.org>

Subject: Committee Recommendations

Good Afternoon Committee Members,

As the Chair of two current building committees there are two items I would like to recommend in the potential new charter.

1. Cap building committees to Nine (9) four (R) four (D) and (U). Based on experience I think any more hinders any progress especially holding a quorum and discussions and scheduling.
2. This actually should be first, but once a committee has been established, members should be allowed to replace/add new members. I currently have one person who has attended two (2) meetings the entire time. I can not officially remove him and to get his replacement I need to go to the BOS to ask and wait for the BOS and RTM to approve a new person.

Thank you for your attention on this matter and for everyone's devoted time on this committee.

Keep up the work and Good Luck!

Jason Li

Chairman Holland Hill and Mill Hill Building Committee

From: Laura OBrien <obrien-laura@sbcglobal.net>

Sent: Thursday, October 14, 2021 6:07 PM

To: O'Brien, Pru <PO'Brien@fairfieldct.org>

Subject: Charter Revision comments

I respectfully submit the following suggested addition to the Fairfield Town Charter:

- As there is no mention of the Bicycle & Pedestrian Committee in the town charter, I suggest it be added to it. The committee was formed in 2014 by the Board of Selectmen (see attached committee charge). This committee has proven to be beneficial to town in a number of ways, including and not limited to, preparing the Complete Streets Policy, establishing several bike routes in town and advocating for many pedestrian and traffic improvements. The work of this committee should continue as a permanent activity of the town.

<<...>>

Laura OBrien

Vice Chair – Bicycle & Pedestrian Committee, Town of Fairfield, CT

178 Glengarry Rd.

Fairfield, CT 06825

Town of Fairfield
Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee
Committee Charge

The Town of Fairfield recognizes the need to encourage walking and biking for transportation, recreation, exercise and quality of life. Walking and biking conserve energy, improve air quality, reduce traffic and the need for parking, improve health and fitness, and invigorate the local economy through increased access to local businesses and greater potential for tourism. These community-wide benefits will be achieved through institutional, planning, enforcement, education and infrastructure actions. The Board of Selectmen shall appoint a Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee consisting of nine members to serve terms of four years; however, the initial appointees shall have staggered terms of two years (3 members), three years (3 members) and four years (3 members). No more than five members of the Committee shall be members of the same political party. The Committee shall elect a Chairperson, Vice Chairperson and Secretary. A Committee member may be removed by the Board of Selectmen for good cause upon a two-thirds vote of the Committee. Failure to attend four consecutive meetings without good reason shall constitute good cause for removal. All vacancies shall be filled by a vote of the Board of Selectmen. This Committee is established by the Board of Selectmen and can be terminated by a vote of the Board of Selectmen at any time.

The Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee shall: . Advocate for the recommendations in the Fairfield Bicycle & Pedestrian

Master Plan in collaboration with Town staff. Monitor transportation and other projects to ensure that they are consistent

with the proposed and/or adopted Complete Streets Policy. Monitor and evaluate the Town's progress in the implementation of the Fairfield Bicycle & Pedestrian Master Plan.

Convene regular meetings dedicated to the review of goals, implementation, outcomes and budgets.

Provide an annual status report to the Board of Selectmen.

Update the Fairfield Bicycle & Pedestrian Master Plan every five years in conjunction with updates in the Plan of Conservation and Development.

The Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee may: . Coordinate public awareness campaigns, educational trainings and events.

Conduct research and evaluation.

Seek grants and accept donations from private individuals and public entities. . Enlist staff, consultants and/or volunteers as needed to address specific tasks of the Committee.

Approved by BOS on 5/12/14

From: CT Chef <chefrjt@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 14, 2021 6:51 PM
To: CRC <CRC@fairfieldct.org>
Cc: Tara Backe <tbacke@aol.com>; Shana Tuttle <shana.tuttle@gmail.com>; Lisa Callahan <beachmom4.callahan@gmail.com>; Karen Winget <kkwopr@yahoo.com>; Jennifer Downing <jennifer@jbdowning.com>; Laura Fasano <lauralee1003@yahoo.com>
Subject: BGAC requested Charter revision

Dear Commissioners,

The Burr Gardens Advisory Committee is requesting a revision of its original charter as approved by the Board of Selectmen on June 20, 2012.

We request that bullet number five under 'Specifically, the BGAC will:' be replaced with the following:

- Any services or work planned and/or performed at Burr Gardens and Arboretum requires prior approval by BGAC.

Respectfully,

Robert Twardzik
Chairman

Laura Fasano
Ex Chairman

From: Judith Ewing <jewing8@outlook.com>
Sent: Saturday, October 16, 2021 10:13 AM
To: CRC <CRC@fairfieldct.org>
Cc: Browne, Betsy <BBrowne@fairfieldct.org>; Judith Ewing <JEEWING8@OUTLOOK.COM>
Subject: Comments Re: adding items to the Charter

To the CRC:

Re: Discussion about adding commissions, committees, and task forces to the Charter on October 14th

My suggestion is to include in the Charter only information necessary to the operation of the Town. If something new is introduced, it generally goes to the RTM as an ordinance which becomes part of the Town Code. The RTM can amend Town Code items as needed. Information in the Town Code can then receive "Charter status" if the CRC agrees to add it to the Charter as a new section.

The Town publishes an annual updated list which is titled "Officials, Boards & Commissions" with lists of members and terms of office. This is compiled by the Town Clerk. New committees and task forces can be added or eliminated on an annual basis.

When you schedule this discussion I suggest you include Betsy Browne, Town Clerk, as her input and experience would be invaluable to your decision making process.

That said, I agree with the comments made by several CRC members and the two attorneys regarding this decision.

The current Charter, which has been revised several times in the past fifty years, is not really very user friendly as a reference. Again I urge a cross-referencing index, clarification of language which has created issues of interpretation, and possibly reverting back to the Board of Education prior to 2006 revisions. (My comments made on October 6th.)

I have some additional comments which I will send in a separate email. Thank you for your service regarding this important matter.

Judy Ewing
98 Sasco Hill Terrace, Fairfield

From: Downie, David L. <ddownie@fairfield.edu>
Sent: Sunday, October 17, 2021 1:40 PM
To: CRC <CRC@fairfieldct.org>
Cc: Downie, David L. <ddownie@fairfield.edu>
Subject: Fairfield Charter Revision - Hold Local Elections in Even Numbered Years

Dear Charter Revision Commission:

Thank you for volunteering to work on this important Commission. I am submitting written comments and I could not attend the on-line forum for public comment.

I write to urge the revision of part A of section 2.3. of Fairfield's Town Charter, specifically the: "Date of Town elections." As you know, the charter currently reads: "A meeting of the electors of the Town for the election of elected Town officials and members of the Representative Town Meeting ("RTM") shall be held on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November in each odd numbered year."

Fairfield should hold its municipal election in even numbered years. The advantages of doing so include:

- Increasing voter turn-out for town elections;
- Reducing voter apathy and burn-out caused by annual elections;
- Having a larger percentage of Fairfield citizens decide on their local representatives;
- Aligning our local elections with state and national elections; and
- Decreasing the financial cost to the town (this should not be overlooked or dismissed).

While I write in my personal capacity as a town resident, as Chair of the Department of Politics at Fairfield University, I know that significant research supports the value of holding local elections during the same year as state and US Congressional elections. I am familiar with the counter arguments and for a very large city some might make sense. However, for Fairfield the benefits of holding local elections in even numbered years far, far outweigh any potential counter argument.

Please consider this change. It would be good for democracy and good for Fairfield.

Best regards,

David Downie
655 Warner Hill Road
Southport/Fairfield, CT 06890

From: Fairfield Bike & Pedestrian Committee <bikewalkrun.fairfield.ct@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, October 18, 2021 9:37 AM
To: CRC <CRC@fairfieldct.org>
Subject: Questions regarding Charter revisions from Fairfield Bike and Pedestrian Committee

Hello Bryan and the Commission,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit comments regarding the proposed Town Charter revisions.

I wanted to follow up with you regarding a question that John Wynne asked me during last week's meeting:

1. First, as I mentioned during the meeting, we respectfully request that the Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee be an organization listed in the Town Charter, in support of the important work we are doing to make our town's roads safer and more comfortable for all users. To be fully effective, we must be a permanent component of our Town's government.
2. Since the last charter revisions in 2006, the committee created a [Complete Streets Policy](#), which was endorsed by the Board of Selectpeople in 2018. Is there a path to strengthening the enforcement capabilities of this [award-winning](#) (see page 7) policy through the Charter process? As written and endorsed in 2018, it is purely advisory, making it virtually impossible to enforce, thus limiting our capabilities as a committee.

As stated by First Selectwoman Brenda Kupchick in [this NYT article](#) from July 2021, in reference to our Complete Streets policy:

“The idea is to make our streets more accessible for all types of users — people with disabilities, cyclists, runners, walkers — not just cars,” Ms. Kupchick said.

As it stands right now, we are extremely limited in our ability to do this. However, if there is a way to include a strengthened Complete Streets Policy in the Charter, we can take the *idea* of making our streets more accessible for all users and do more to make it a *reality* throughout our town.

Thanks so much for your consideration of these requests. I look forward to your reply and advice as to how we can move forward.

Have a great week,

Sarah

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Sarah Roy

Chair, Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee
Town of Fairfield, Connecticut
<http://fairfieldct.org/bikeped>

From: Barbara Harris <bahgarden@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, October 18, 2021 4:25 PM
To: O'Brien, Pru <PO'Brien@fairfieldct.org>
Subject: Charter Revision Commission

To the Commission,

Thank you for taking comments for the Charter. I would like to express my suggestions and desires to possibly be implemented in the charter as follows:

1. Not allowing large corporations to take over town with exorbitant rents but rather supporting small businesses only, with reasonable, appropriate rent.

2. Keeping the noise level way down at FW High school athletic field as the entire region should not have to listen to it. In general, the noise ordinance needs to be stricter as fireworks in residential areas are too loud. Also, minimizing aircraft fly overs.

3. Banning all dangerous, harmful chemical usage that pollutes the air, water and soil such as pesticides, inorganic fertilizers, glyphosate weed killer and any others and promoting pollinator pathways to support agriculture and safe food in the town and state, especially on golf courses in

town. There are safe, natural ways to maintain flora and fauna.

4. Preserve, conserve and declare as much open space as possible as wildlife refuges, ongoing, for balance and respite for all to visit and partake, considering future generations.

5. To designate and create more community gardens downtown at the senior center and town hall area. Not just soccer fields as residents need this important recreation as there could be food shortages with all going on globally.

These suggestions will create a healthier more resilient population so I hope they will be considered seriously.

Thank you for the opportunity to share my concerns and wishes.

*Sincerely,
Barbara Harris*

From: Barbara Harris <bahgarden@yahoo.com>

Sent: Tuesday, October 19, 2021 3:53 PM

To: O'Brien, Pru <PO'Brien@fairfieldct.org>

Subject: Fw: omission

Good morning,

I forgot to add the dangerous forever chemical PFAS to my submission to ask that it be in the town charter that the communities water be tested for it as it is highly toxic, never breaks down and manufacturers incorporate it into so many products.

Thank you kindly,

B. Harris

From: Downie, David L. <ddownie@fairfield.edu>
Sent: Thursday, October 21, 2021 4:25 PM
To: CRC <CRC@fairfieldct.org>
Subject: RE: Fairfield Charter Revision - Hold Local Elections in Even Numbered Years

Dear Charter Revision Commission:

With reference to my suggestion that Fairfield change its election cycle, if CT State law prevents Fairfield from changing the years in which it holds elections for town positions, then I request that the Commission consider if such a change would be desirable in the abstract. If the Commission agrees that it would be desirable, then I hope the Commission would write Fairfield's state representatives requesting that they seek changes in the relevant state statute(s) so that the Town of Fairfield, and other municipalities, could hold local elections when they wished.

Best regards,

David Downie
655 Warner Hill Road
Southport/Fairfield, CT 06890

From: panded@optonline.net <panded@optonline.net>
Sent: Friday, October 22, 2021 3:07 PM
To: CRC <CRC@fairfieldct.org>; bcaff@gmail.com
Subject: Input from Department Heads - Charter Revision Commission

Hi there! I was surprised a number of department heads were absent from the Oct 14th CRC meeting and was curious if they emailed or otherwise communicated their

suggestions. If so, may I trouble you to let me know where I might access that data. I did review the "Issue Tracking Chart" which was very thorough!

Thank you!

Eve Burhenne

827 Riverside Drive

Fairfield, CT 06824

203 255 6176

From: Valiant Thor <valiant.thor@onionmail.org>

Sent: Friday, October 22, 2021 9:56 PM

To: CRC <CRC@fairfieldct.org>

Subject: Please post desired revisions on the Town website

Why doesn't the administration post what parts of the charter she wants to revise?

It is just hyperbole from inception.