

1 CONWAY CHARTER COMMISSION AGENDA  
2 CONWAY TOWN HALL MEETING ROOM  
3 23 MAIN STREET, CONWAY NH  
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5  
6 November 15, 2023, 5:30 PM  
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9 The following members were present: Ray Leavitt, Mark Guerrigue (arrived at 5:31) Victoria  
10 Noel Blake, Eliza Grant, Harrison Kanzler, Karen Umberger, S. Sand, David Weathers, and  
11 Thomas Holmes.

12 **Pledge of Allegiance**

13 Those able stood for the pledge of allegiance.

14 **Approval of Agenda**

15 ***H. Kanzler moved to approve the agenda as presented seconded by V. Blake.***  
16 ***Vote in favor 8-0***

17 **Approval of Minutes**

18 ***D. Weathers moved to approve the 10/25/2023 and 11/01/2023 as amended, seconded S.***  
19 ***Sand.***  
20 ***Vote in favor 8-0.***

21 H. Kanzler- I included a Budget Committee transition in your packet and can answer questions.

22 K. Umberger- I'd like to put it as 12.5 not 12.8.

23 ***V. Blake motioned to accept the Budget Committee transition as submitted by H. Kanzler;***  
24 ***seconded by R. Leavitt.***  
25 ***Vote in favor 8-0***

26 K. Umberger- in the current charter I noticed a statement that says in accordance with the  
27 provisions of RSA 36-5 a Conservation Commission fund is established in which the  
28 appropriations of the CC will be allowed to accumulate from year to year, and this was added in  
29 2017. I did speak to the current Town Manager, and he said that right now it doesn't appear  
30 that the Town is following that, but they probably should. He also recommended that we put it  
31 in the new charter and that would fall under 11.1.

32 S. Sand- can someone explain what this is for.

33 D. Weathers- the funds that the CC gets for logging projects, that goes back into the budget.  
34 Any revenue generated from the timber sale goes back into reducing the budget for that given  
35 year.

36 E. Grant- I don't think we need to specify if we're not doing something different than the  
37 default at the state level. If we are just reiterating guidelines that are above Town level, I don't  
38 know that it has to be in there.

39 ***S. Sand motioned to accept 11.C; seconded by E. Grant.***  
40 ***Vote in favor 7-1***

41 **Discussion on the Preliminary Report**

42 T. Holmes- Mark Guerrigue edited this for grammar.

43 ***K. Umberger motioned to accept the preliminary report as amended; seconded by R. Leavitt.***  
44 ***Vote in favor 8-0***

45 H. Kanzler. I don't like the wording of the sentence that reads, "while the charter commission  
46 has proposed changes that expand the powers of a town council, it has done so to improve the  
47 efficiency of Town operations and governance." . were not expanding the powers that a town  
48 council may or may not have. I think we are expanding the power of the BOS, by creating a  
49 town council.

50 ***H. Kanzler motioned to amend the sentence to read "The charter commission has proposed***  
51 ***changing to a town council form of government, in order to improve the efficiency of town***  
52 ***operations and government; seconded by E. Grant.***  
53 ***Vote in favor 8-0***

54 E. Grant- on the same page, the second paragraph and then the 3<sup>rd</sup> paragraph, that sentence  
55 feels like it belongs in the 2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph. I feel like it is a rogue paragraph that is one sentence  
56 that says ultimately the voters have the final say.

57 ***E. Grant motioned to move that sentence to the second paragraph; seconded by S. Sand.***  
58 ***Vote in favor 8-0***

59 Mark Guerrigue (Arrived at 5:31)

60 ***K. Umberger withdrew their motion to accept the preliminary report as amended; seconded***  
61 ***by R. Leavitt.***  
62 ***Vote in favor 8-0***

63 ***H. Kanzler motioned to accept the new preliminary report as amended allowing for such***  
64 ***Scribner's errors being allowed to change without changing the intent; seconded by D.***

65 **Weathers.**

66 **Vote in favor 9-0**

67 **R. Leavitt motioned to accept the proposed Charter as amended allowing for such Scribner's**  
68 **errors being allowed to change without changing the intent; seconded by K. Umberger.**

69 **Vote in favor 8-0-1**

70 M. Guerrigue- to D. Weathers, how are you going to vote?

71 D. Weathers- I'm not going to support it, I don't think it addresses apathy, I don't see how this  
72 is going to be a big change, the charter needs to be updated no question, and I think the  
73 changes we made could be made to the existing charter. I don't see how this is going to  
74 increase the number of voters, and that's my main concern. I don't feel the workload is  
75 overbearing. My main concern is how we get more people interested and committed to  
76 participating and understanding what we're voting on, and I don't see that this does it.

77 M. Guerrigue- I made a point to say one that I see it going from 5-7 is that it would increase  
78 voter participation, it would increase voter interest in Town government, and I do think there's  
79 a perception that it is a kind of a little close society. I mean you were a Selectman for 20 years  
80 and you lost in a very odd situation.

81 D. Weathers- that is the 3<sup>rd</sup> time you have brought that up, you did not support me 3 elections  
82 in a row, this is not the time for this.

83 T. Holmes- point of order.

84 M. Guerrigue- Mary has been an incumbent for 15 years and it is very difficult to run against an  
85 incumbent So, the idea of having seven councilor obviously not Selectmen, is that it might get  
86 other people involved with town government who don't feel as though they have access to  
87 town government. I think town government could be improved by having wider representation.

88 R. Leavitt- I was on the Board when we went from 3-5, and I think that improved the function.  
89 I'm not sure it's going to increase participation but it's going to provide a pathway for probably  
90 a broader view of operations of government which I think is important. In the beginning I was  
91 stuck on the idea of keeping it the way it was, and then I realized that after going through this  
92 process, that we have greater flexibility under the town council than we would under SB2.

93 S. Sand- I see a town that has grown. I appreciate the next generation stepping up an  
94 participating. The ability to grow our executive branch we have the opportunity to be flexible. I  
95 am voting in the positive for this because we need to take a step to grow.

96 K. Umberger- as I am the one who typed this, I know the charter very well. What I see it doing is  
97 opening up town government. What we have done is to codify those things into the new  
98 charter and I believe that is one of the major improvements this charter will make.

99 M. Guerrigue- this is the beginning of a new platform.

100 T. Holmes commented that he found the process very educational and rewarding. Weve done a  
101 lot to give people a choice. We came up with a modernized version of our current charter that  
102 allows for expansion.

103 R. Leavitt- after it comes back from the attorney does it then go back to the selectman for a yay  
104 or a nay?

105 T. Holmes- it says it goes to the lawyer, secretary of state, attorney general and the DRA.

106 **New Business- None**

107 **Public Comments- None**

108 **Adjournment**

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110 ***T. Holmes adjourned the meeting.***

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116 Respectfully Submitted,

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118 Alicia Jipson

119 Recording Secretary