

10-12-2024

Mary Connolly

Charter Revision Committee – Selectpersons Chapters IV and V

Proposal for consideration regarding the roles and responsibilities of the Selectpersons of Woodbury.

On September 30, 2024, the CRC held a public hearing. There were five questions for the public to consider and share their thoughts with the committee. The questions focusing on the Selectpersons were about the number, the length of their terms, and staggering their election cycles.

Additionally, the creating the position Town Administrator was posed. Since Woodbury does not have a Town Administrator, the details of this position and its impact on the roles of the Board of Selectpersons was not fully outlined in the presentation.

At the next meeting of the CRC on October 9, 2024, the committee discussed the feedback that we received at the public hearing. I suggested another option based on input from the public hearing.

- Change the term of the First Selectperson to four years.
- Keep the terms of the two Selectpersons to two years.
- Increase the pay of the First Selectperson to be more in line with what a Town Administrator would have been paid. And make the role the highest paid in our Town government.
- Increase the pay of the two selectpersons and make them each an ex-officio member of boards and commissions.

These proposed draft changes address the following concerns.

- It provides a version of staggering of terms. The First Selectperson overlaps the terms of the two Selectpersons.
- A four-year term for the First Selectperson allows time to develop policies and implement changes, effectively evaluate Town employees, and address concerns of the residents. This is balanced with the option for the Town residents to change the Selectpersons with whom the First Selectperson is working during the First Selectperson's term if the trio is not effective.
- Four-year term and increased salary (with expectations of better communication, ability to pursue grants, and a more cohesive coordination between all the Boards and Commissions in Town) will hopefully add more variety to the backgrounds and demographics of those who choose to run for the position.
- It maintains a representative form of government while addressing the growing complexity and changes facing local officials.
- With a slight boost in pay and being ex-officio member of boards and commissions (without the First Selectperson delegating that responsibility), the two Selectpersons would be expected to coordinate communications between the boards and commissions, especially since there will probably be additions to the number of committees.
- This also addresses the views that there should be more voices representing the Townspeople. With three or four more boards or 15 to 20 more people working on boards, the number of opinions will be greatly increased and voices amplified. Altering of the Selectpersons'

roles and retaining an efficient BoS of three, will also address the goal of effectiveness and efficiency balanced with increasing input.

This list is not meant to be all-inclusive; it is meant to be a draft and starting point for discussion.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Connolly 10/12/2024