



# Town of Woodbury

## Board of Selectmen

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### MEMO

TO: Charter Revision Commission

FROM: Barbara Perkinson, First Selectman  
George Hale, Karen Reddington-Hughes

RE: Report to the Charter Revision Commission

FROM: Paul R. Jessell, Town Counsel

DATE: May 27, 2025

The Board of Selectmen (BOS) asked that I draft a memo outlining recommendations for reconsideration of items contained in the Charter Revision Commission's final draft dated March 31, 2025. The Board of Selectmen make these recommendations following two public hearings regarding the draft Charter.

#### **Section 105 C.**

Depending on the resolution of the suggested changes to Section 602 H. and Section 602 J., the Charter Revision Commission (CRC) should consider deleting subsection 1, definition of Advisory Board, and subsection 10, Governing Board.

#### **Section 201 B**

The language of this Section seems to say that any person admitted as an Elector after twelve o'clock noon on the business day before a Town Meeting cannot vote at Town Meeting. However, this ignores anyone qualified to vote for other reasons. Change the language to read as follows:

"Unless otherwise qualified to vote in Town Meeting pursuant to Section 7-6 of the General Statutes, no person admitted as an Elector after twelve o'clock noon on the last business day before a Town Meeting shall be permitted to vote in such Town Meeting."

#### **Section 202 A. 3.**

Technical Correction. Should change section references to: 402 (L) (2) and 402 (L) (3)

### **Section 302 D.**

There is a Note in this Section relating to a prior (2001) vote to try to make Tax Collector an appointive position. While this is valuable history, I am just not certain it has a place in the Charter.

### **Section 306**

The last two sentences of this section read as follows:

“No member of a board or commission shall serve as chairman for more than five (5) consecutive years without at least one (1) intervening year wherein such member shall not serve as chairman. This provision is not intended to limit the total amount of years that a member may serve as chairman of a board or commission.”

There is support on the Board of Selectmen and the public that this provision be deleted.

### **Section 402 L 1**

Section currently provides as follows:

“The Board of Selectmen may, without approval by Town Meeting, sell, lease, or otherwise dispose of Town real property having a value not in excess of five thousand dollars (\$5,000.00).”

Suggest that after that sentence, add the following:

“Notification of the Board of Selectmen's intention to sell said real property shall be published on the Town’s website.”

This language mirrors similar language in Section 402 L 2.

### **Section 502 A**

Should consideration be given to adding the article “the” before the word “Ordinances” in two places in that section. See the last line of Section 601 where we use that same construct.

### **Section 602 H; Section 602 J**

There seems to be a great deal of support for keeping both the Park and Recreation Commission and the Library Board of Trustees advisory from both the Board of Selectmen and from members of the public as stated in the Public Hearings.

If the main purpose of making these Boards governing boards is to vest them with power over donations made, that purpose will not be met. All monies received by any Town agency must be received by the Board of Finance and Board of Selectmen where it is allocated to appropriate line items for special funds and can be traced and earmarked for those individual funds pursuant to the Board of Finance Special Revenue policy. Appropriation of money to be spent must also emanate from the Board of Finance and the Board of Selectmen, but in the knowledge that earmarked funds are to be spent as anticipated. The receipt and transfer of monies by the Town is exclusively the province of the Board of Selectmen and the Board of Finance.

Having volunteer appointed Board members governing a board or commission does not provide for sufficient accountability for the proper handling of Town funds. The Park and Recreation Commission voted not to be made a governing board.

**Section 702 D 4**

With the inclusion of the Board of Education budget with the Town budget at the as part of the Final Proposed Annual Budget which is brought by the Board of Finance to the Annual Budget Meeting could lead some citizens to believe that they can make changes to line items in the Education budget like they can in the Town budget. This is clearly not the case. In order to clarify this, suggest the following:

Add the following to the to 702 d 4: Notwithstanding anything in Section 702 (D) (2) or Section 702 (D) (3), the Annual Budget Meeting shall not have the power to modify the Annual Educational Budget.

**Section 702 D 5**

In order to account for the Regional Board of Education rules regarding referenda, the first clause of Section 702 D 5 should be modified to read: "The Annual Budget Meeting shall be adjourned for not less than seven (7) days or more than thirty (30) days, . . ." This differs from the language suggested by the Board of Selectmen which recommended "up to thirty (30) days." In the context of the sentence, the "or more than thirty (30) days" seems better.

**Section 801 A 19**

Just a spelling correction. Section 801 A 19, change "professional" to "professionally".