



TOWN OF **NEWMARKET** NEW HAMPSHIRE

CHARTER COMMISSION
Tuesday, July 22nd, 2025 at 7:00 PM
Town Hall, Council Chambers
MEETING MINUTES
Approved August 5, 2025

Members Present: Phil Nazzaro (Vice Chair), Patrick Reynolds, Russ Simon, Toni Weinstein (Chair), Al Zink. Scott Blackstone and Dan Smith. Chris Hawkins and John Bentley were excused.

The Chair opened the meeting at 7:00 PM.

1. Pledge of Allegiance

2. Public Comment

Andrew Haemker of Kimmel Way shared his perspectives on the practical challenges of moving to a form of government where the municipality has authority over the school. He suggested not changing the form of government and cited examples in his time as an educator on how the city form of government creates multiple difficulties for the education of the students in the district.

3. Consider Acceptance of Minutes

The draft minutes of the July, 8, 2025 meeting were introduced for comment. There were no comments or changes. Mr. Blackstone moved that the draft minutes be approved as presented. Mr. Smith seconded the motion. The July 8, 2025 meeting minutes were approved 7-0.

4. Bart McDonough (Town Planner) and Eric Botterman (Vice Chair of the Planning Commission)

Mr. McDonough discussed the approach Newmarket has taken to the Capital Improvement Plan Committee. Advantages he sees in the current approach is the broader voices heard in this method. The disadvantage is that there are challenges with getting people on the committee. The advantage of the Planning board



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administering the CIP would be that the Planning Board tends to be full and is familiar with the Master Plan. Mr. Botterman discussed that he doesn't think that the CIP being managed by the planning board wouldn't make a major change in the process or alignment with the Master Plan. A robust conversation ensued. Mr. Reynolds asked Mr. McDonough to share an example of how the Master Plan could inform the CIP and he shared several including the downtown waterfront improvements and sidewalk work linked to the connectivity priority in the Master Plan. Mr. McDonough shared his belief that the Charter Commission can create language in the charter to foster procedures that drive greater alignment.

Mr. Botterman discussed the idea of an elected versus appointed planning board. He has thought a lot about the subject and has come down on the side of supporting the elected planning board. In his work in communities with appointed planning boards he has found far more political planning boards and group think than in communities where there are elected planning boards. Mr. Zink referenced a letter that the Chair of the Planning Board, Val Shelton, sent similarly supporting the continuation of the elected Planning Board. It was discussed that we will include Ms. Shelton's letter in the record.

5. Survey Updates

Update on the survey engagement was given including 258 responses thus far with a completion rate of 69% far better than the benchmarked average of 20-30%. The Survey will remain open until August 15th.

6. Backyard Bash Planning

Mr. Reynolds shared the idea of having a table with some treats (candy etc.) and some activity that will get people to somehow think about the structure of our town government. He shared an idea about having darts that are thrown at various concepts about town government. The group discussed several options and decided to have a ping-pong ball cup toss. A sign up for time to help staff the booth was emailed to the Commission by the Chair.

7. New Business



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There was no new business.

8. Adjournment

Mr. Reynolds made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Mr. Zink. The motion was approved unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:40 PM.