

Received 7/20/26
3:18 PM Jodi Moore, ATC

Town of Durham
Board of Selectmen
Wednesday, July 1, 2026, at 8:30 a.m.
3rd floor, Town Hall, and Remote via Zoom
Meeting Minutes

Meeting Recording

Passcode: 0yNWE+7y

1. Call to Order
First Selectman Rea called the Board of Selectmen meeting of Wednesday, July 1, 2026, to order at 8:39 a.m. Selectman Chadd and Selectman Hennick present.
2. Pledge of Allegiance
First Selectman Rea led with the Pledge of Allegiance.
3. Approval of Agenda
MOTION BY FIRST SELECTMAN REA, SECONDED BY SELECTMAN HENNICK TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS PRESENTED. VOTE: ALL AYE
4. Public Comment (*Open to agenda items only*)
None.
5. Expiration of Terms (*per Charter Sec. 2.7*):
 - a. Ethics Commission, terms ending April 30, 2026 (1 regular, 1 alternate)
None.
6. Accept nominations and vote to fill the following vacancies (*per Charter 2.6*):
 - a. Building Code of Appeals, 2028
None.
 - b. Ethics Commission, Regular, 2028
None.
 - c. Ethics Commission, Alternate, 2028
None.
 - d. Sustainable Durham, Alternate, 2027
None.
7. Proclamation Discussion
First Selectman Rea explained the board inadvertently neglected to add a request from the Durham Democratic Town Committee for a Pride Month Proclamation. An email request was made by the DDTC on June 9th. First Selectman Rea stated his office requested updated language from DDTC, as the last proclamation approved by the town was from 2022. The board discussed waiting for the updated language and will discuss next steps.
8. Accept Draft Report from the Charter Revision Commission
First Selectman Rea explained the Charter Revision Commission have handed over their draft amendments to the Board of Selectmen. The information can be located on the [town website](#). He further explained he has attended or listened to the meetings the Commission has held over the last year and the amount of work and time put in by the members is tremendous. First Selectman Rea felt all the members joined this committee and completed this work for the betterment of the town, so it was upsetting to hear false accusations at the June Public Hearing. The Committee was not handpicked for a certain direction; the Board of Selectmen met half the board during the vetting process. Additionally, the only charge the Committee was given was the publicly approved document that was discussed at multiple Board of Selectmen meetings. First Selectman Rea acknowledged that the members thought big and outside the box. This is the town's constitution, and the board will handle this responsibly. He thanked all the members for their hard work and effort. First Selectman

Rea recognized two members of the Charter Revision Commission who were in attendance; Martin Anderson and Eileen Buckheit.

Martin Anderson, Co-Chair: urged the public to view the Charter Revision Commission meeting from December 13th. This meeting included a presentation on a strong new trend in Connecticut towns of adopting a Town Administrator vs. Town Manager. Additionally, data was provided from CCM regarding elected vs. appointed positions. He further explained that a lot of hard work went into revising the charter sections and he hopes the work makes it to referendum for the residents to vote.

Eileen Buckheit: explained that many of the members did not know each other and she was proud how well they worked together. She noted this proposal would not change the towns form of government (Board of Selectmen/Town Meeting). The town could hire a Town Administrator right now, without a charter change. She further explained that town government has become more complicated; more grant funds, state funding, mandates, laws and regulations the town must abide by and HR regulations – the town does not have a Human Resources Department. More families are two income earning families with less workers willing to leave to work for a municipality with the possibility of having to re-enter the private sector. Many towns in CT are moving in this direction. The Board of Selectmen would still set the policy, and the Town Administrator would be a full time employee to carry out those policies. She felt it is a great tool for a town.

The Board of Selectmen thanked the Charter Revision Commission and explained per statute the next steps include holding a Public Hearing on the proposed amendments.

9. Discuss and take action to set a Public Hearing Date
MOTION BY FIRST SELECTMAN REA, SECONDED BY SELECTMAN HENNICK TO SET A PUBLIC HEARING DATE FOR MONDAY, JULY 13, 2026, AT 7:00 P.M., AT THE COMMUNITY CENTER AND REMOTE VIA ZOOM TO DISCUSS THE CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION PROPOSED DRAFT AMENDMENTS. VOTE: ALL AYE

10. Old/New Business

America 250 Update:

- a. On Thursday, July 2nd the America 250 Committee will host a reading of the Declaration of Independence and Time Capsule commitment. The event will be held on the Town Green at 5:30 p.m., rain or shine. The First Company Governor's Foot Guard will be in attendance and CRHS student, Kaiya Ayotte, will read her winning America 250 essay written for Durham/Middlefield.
- b. The committee is also selling Commemorative Coins for \$20/each. Coins can be purchased at Town Hall, and all proceeds go to the America 250 Committee

11. Selectmen Comments

None.

12. Public Comments

Rick Parmelee: felt Compensation Review Personnel Policy Board and Fire Board of Trustees needs to be maintained in the charter as is, disagreed with holding daytime meetings.

Maya Perry Liss: echoed thanks for the Charter Revision Commission, hopes to review the draft amendments.

13. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 9:05 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jaclyn Lehet