

Charter Commission Preliminary Report

March 8, 2022

To the voters of the Town of Lyman:

The Town of Lyman Charter Commission (hereinafter “Commission”) submits this preliminary report of the draft municipal charter revisions that it intends to submit to the voters in November 2022. The Commission believes that the proposed charter will help the Town of Lyman manage the expectations of municipal officials and officers, as well as meet future challenges and changing needs of the community.

The voters of Lyman approved the establishment of a charter commission at our town election on June 8, 2021. Consistent with State law, six members were elected, and three members were appointed by the Board of Selectmen to serve on the Commission.

An initial organizational meeting was held on July 22, 2021, at which time the Commission elected Jessica Picard, Chair; Roger Hooper, Vice-Chair; and Amber Swett, Secretary-Treasurer. A public hearing was held on August 19, 2021, at which time the Charter Commission received input, opinions, and views from members of the public on the current municipal charter.

Over the following months, the Commission met regularly to discuss, draft, and revise charter provisions. The Commission made every effort to be responsive to the will and suggestions of the community while remaining unbiased in their presentation of charter revisions for the voters to adopt.

Some highlights of the Commission’s work include:

- Drafting two proposals: one with a Town Manager; one without a Town Manager.
- Public outreach for the Public Hearing- Commission members handing out flyers at the Transfer Station and posting online.
- Sending a memo soliciting feedback from all Elected Officials, Employees, Boards, and Commissions.
- Setting up a Charter Commission page on the Town Website
- Setting up a specific email address for the Charter Commission to solicit feedback from the public.
- Interviewing municipal employees that have experience in towns both with and without Town Managers and discussing key differences.
- Broadcasting and recording all Charter Commission meetings on the Town’s YouTube page for full transparency.
- Incorporating an electronic meeting policy to allow member and public participation via ZOOM for added convenience.
- Reviewing existing charters from other towns.

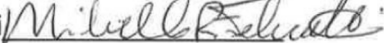
The objective of the Commission was to look at many possible ideas and use them as the basis for developing the best working charter for the Town. The Commission wanted to craft a document that would provide needed guidance and direction to municipal officers, officials, and

the general public while being flexible and capable of adapting to changing needs as Lyman grows and evolves.

The Commission plans to consider all comments and deliver a final report and proposed Charter revisions no later than June 8, 2022, for consideration of Registered Voters at the November 8, 2022, gubernatorial election.


Respectfully Submitted,


David Alves 

Michelle Felicitti 


Celeste Hatch _____

Donald Hernon 

Roger Hooper 

Margaret Macdonald 

Jessica Picard 

Judy St. Onge 

Amber Swett _____