



RTM RULES & ORDINANCES COMMITTEE
Town of Branford

Adrian Bonenberger, Dan Adelman, Susan Dahill, Ray Ingraham, Peter Black, Trish Anderson
 Peter Hentschel, Chair

MEETING MINUTES

Branford Community Center, February 20, 2024

- Call to Order at 7:00 pm
- Roll Call:
 - a. Present - PH, AB, DA, SD, RI, PB, TA
- Chair's decision to hold the March meeting of the Committee via Zoom
 - a. All agreed that regularly scheduled March meeting will be by Zoom
- Meeting minutes for the December meeting were approved unanimously.
- To consider, and if appropriate, approve an amendment to the Town Code, Chapter 17, Cosgrove Animal Shelter Commission, § 17-2 Membership to remove the reference to the Town of North Branford. (proposal attached)
 - a. Discussion:
 - i. Rep Black likes the phrasing to keep things flexible.
 - ii. Rep Anderson also likes it.
 - iii. Rep Ingraham liked it provided that it didn't bump a Branford resident off the Commission.
 - iv. Rep Twohill (in attendance) liked it.
 - v. Rep Everson (in attendance) asked whether the Town Clerk was instrumental in putting this forward.
 - b. Motion made to: Pass the amendment as proposed
 - c. Motion by Black and seconded by Bonenberger
 - d. Vote: PH, AB, DA, SD, RI, PB, TA all in favor
- To consider, and if appropriate, approve an amendment to the Town Code, to change RTM Rule E. 8.5. Amending, altering or suspending the rules, (2) Suspension of the Rules, to require a supermajority to suspend the Rules. (proposal attached)
 - a. Discussion:
 - i. Rep Black explained the upside to it.
 - ii. Rep Twohill endorsed it.

Mari E. Everson
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- b. Motion to pass the amendment as proposed.
 - c. Motion by Black and seconded by Ingraham.
 - d. Vote: PH, AB, DA, SD, RI, PB, TA all in favor
- To consider, and if appropriate, approve an amendment to the Town Code, to change RTM Rule E. 8.5. Amending, altering or suspending the rules, (1) Alteration or Amendment of the Rules, to require a supermajority to alter or amend the Rules. (proposal attached)
 - a. Discussion:
 - i. Rep Black discussed the upside and downside and ultimately endorses this amended language.
 - ii. Rep Hentschel observed that there's a built-in mechanism in the rules for amending or altering rules that requires multiple steps thus slowing the process down.
 - iii. Rep Black said that the important thing was to ensure that the process is deliberative; but also noted that it will be difficult to come back to the current language once the change has been enacted.
 - iv. Rep Bonenberger agreed to the proposal.
 - v. Rep Dahill agreed to the proposal.
 - vi. Rep Anderson agreed to the proposal.
 - b. Motion made to: Pass the amendment as proposed.
 - c. Motion by Bonenberger and seconded by Adelman.
 - d. Vote: PH, AB, DA, SD, RI, PB, TA all in favor
- To consider, and if appropriate, approve an amendment to the Town Code, RTM Rules, E. Rule 4.5. Committee responsibilities (general) to clarify and coordinate long standing references to Reports and more recent requirements for Meeting Minutes. (proposal attached)
 - a. Discussion:
 - i. Long discussion between Rep Hentschel, Adelman, and Black about how to best tweak the language to achieve the desired end result.
 - ii. Rep Black suggested taking out 1 & 2 from Rule 4.3 (change what's required, so long as it's consistent with FOI)
 - iii. Rep Everson talked about the intention of the recent requirement that committees submit minutes so that absent members and the public would be aware of the actions taken during committee meetings.
 - iv. Rep Black agreed to take a look at alternative ways to edit the Rules and any references to Reports to achieve the intention of this proposal and submit that for discussion in the March Committee meeting.

- b. Motion to re-refer (Bonenberger)
- c. By Bonenberger and seconded by Ingraham
- d. Vote: PH, AB, DA, SD, RI, PB, TA all in favor

- Other Business - NONE

- Adjourn

Attachments:

- Referral to the RTM of R&O approved amendment to the Town Code, Chapter 17, Cosgrove Animal Shelter Commission, § 17-2 Membership.
- Referral to the RTM of R&O approved amendment to the Town Code, to change RTM Rule E. 8.5. Amending, altering or suspending the rules, (2) Suspension of the Rules.
- Referral to the RTM of R&O approved amendment to the Town Code, to change RTM Rule E. 8.5. Amending, altering or suspending the rules, (1) Alteration or Amendment of the Rules

Amendments Approved

Proposed Amendment of Chapter 17, Cosgrove Animal Shelter Commission.

§ 17-2 Membership.

Said Commission shall consist of seven members, at least six of whom shall be residents of the Town of Branford and one of whom **at the discretion of the Board of Selectman** may be a **non-resident of the Town**, and shall be appointed by the Branford Board of Selectmen. Not more than four members shall at the same time be members of the same political party. Members shall serve without compensation.

Proposed Amendment of RTM Rule E. 8.5 (2)

E. Rule 8.5. Amending, altering or suspending the rules.

(2) Suspension of any of the rules herein shall require the vote of at least **2/3** of the members present and shall be for a specified purpose; after the accomplishment of such purpose, the rule or rules suspended shall be in force as before the suspension.

Proposed Amendment of RTM Rule E. 8.5 (1)

E. Rule 8.5. Amending, altering or suspending the rules.

(1) These rules shall not be altered or amended except by vote of at least **2/3** of the members present at a meeting and unless such alteration or amendment be on the call and agenda of the meeting.

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