

Charter Commission Members

The Charter Commission was formed through a public vote in November 2022. Per State law, the committee consists of 6 elected members and 3 appointed members:

- Christian Babcock (Chair)
cbabcock@kennebunkmaine.us
- Richard Smith (Vice Chair)
rsmith@kennebunkmaine.us
- Janice Vance (Secretary)
jvance@kennebunkmaine.us
- Christopher Babbidge
cbabbidge@kennebunkmaine.us
- Susan Bloomfield
sbloomfield@kennebunkmaine.us
- Christopher Cluff
ccluff@kennebunkmaine.us
- Brenda Robinson
brobinson@kennebunkmaine.us
- Stephen Sayers
ssayers@kennebunkmaine.us
- Edward (Ted) Trainer
etrainer@kennebunkmaine.us



Questions?

Please call the Town Clerk
985-2102 ext 1602

How You Can Participate

- **Come to a meeting, or watch it on TV!**
- The Charter Commission meets on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month at 6:30pm in Town Hall Room 301.
- Meeting agendas are posted online at: www.kennebunkmaine.us/agendas
- All meetings are televised on Spectrum Cable TV Channel 5.
- Miss the meeting? View it online anytime at www.townhallstreams.com
- **Submit comments via email**
townclerk2@kennebunkmaine.us
- **View the current Town Charter**
www.kennebunkmaine.us/charter
- **Visit the Charter Committee's website**
www.kennebunkmaine.us/chartercommission
- **Learn more about State rules for municipalities**
<https://www.maine.gov/portal/government/>

Dear Kennebunk Residents... Can we chat?



The 2023 Charter Commission wants your opinions!

What is a Charter?

Simply defined, it's a town's Constitution.

Article 1: Grant of Powers to the Town

*Incorporates the town under Maine law and establishes the form of government to be
Town Meeting-Select Board-Town Manager*

Article 2: Town Meetings

Details how elections are run

Article 3: Select Board

Specifies the number of members, their qualifications, duties prescribed by law, and how the Board operates

Article 4: Town Manager

Lays out a job description and how the Town Manager is chosen

Article 5: Budget process

Establishes the duties of the Budget Board and how the budget is put together for approval by voters

Article 6: Initiative and Referendum

Explains how citizens can propose new ordinances or changes to ordinances via petition

Article 7: Recall of Elected Officials

Outlines the process by which citizens can initiate a petition to remove an elected official from office

Why Review the Charter Now?

There were many reasons the Select Board felt it was a good time to initiate a review of the current Town charter, and asked voters to approve a Charter Commission:

- A lack of clarity concerning the provisions to recall officials;
- Concern that Town committees operate in a legal gray zone at the municipal level;
- The Town has grown and evolved since the last review was done well over ten years ago.



How Does The Review Process Work?

- State law specifies how a Charter Commission works, the schedule that must be followed, and other details. The Charter Commission must prepare, for public review, a preliminary report within nine months, with a final report within twelve months.
- During the process, the Commission will have regular meetings with Town residents, the Select Board, the Town Manager, other boards and committees, the Town Clerk and other Town officials.

- The Commission will also look at charters from other towns.
- When the Commission creates its final recommendations, in the form of a revised charter, the Select Board shall send those recommendations to Town voters for approval.
- The goal is to have a charter that serves residents' needs efficiently.



How Do Other Towns Govern?

- All Maine towns self-determine a method of government, which can include varying elements such as Town Managers, Town Administrators, Select Boards, Town Councils, Town Meetings, and Municipal Elections.
- About one third of York County towns use the same form of government as Kennebunk.
- Not all Maine towns have a Town Charter. Some rely solely on Town Ordinances.

