

# CITY OF STAMFORD

## 19<sup>TH</sup> CHARTER REVISION

### COMMISSION

Members  
*JEANETTE BILICZNIANSKI*  
*CYNTHIA BOWSER*  
*KAREN CAMPOREALE*  
*SUE HALPERN*  
*FRANCES LANE*  
*MICHAEL LAROBINA*

Thomas Lombardo, Chair  
Michael Larobina, Vice Chair  
Jackie Pioli, Clerk

Members  
*STEVEN LOEB*  
*ALEX MARTINEZ*  
*J.R. MCMULLEN*  
*SHELLEY MICHELSON*  
*ANTHONY PRAMBERGER, JR.*  
*CLEMON WILLIAMS*

#### MEETING REPORT

Wednesday, February 8, 2023  
7:00 p.m.

This meeting was held remotely at the above date and time.

Chair Lombardo called the meeting to order at 7:06 p.m.

**Roll Call:** In attendance were Chair Lombardo, Vice Chair Larobina, and Commissioners Bilicznianski, Bowser, Camporeale, Halpern, Lane, Loeb, Lombardo, Martinez, McMullen, Michelson, Pioli, Pramberger and Williams. Commissioner Kolenberg was excused. Also present were Attorneys Mednick and Roberts.

**Pledge of Allegiance:** Commissioner Halpern led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Public Comment period:** There were no members of the public present wishing to speak.

**Communications and Correspondence:** Chair Lombardo stated that he had received email correspondence regarding the BOR structure and salary which he would distribute. The member of the public will be invited to speak at the public hearing. Commissioner Pramberger mentioned that the commission also received email correspondence from A. William Mottolese, which has been circulated to the Commission regarding legal fees.

A motion to take items out of order on the agenda, so that the City Departments Committee and Elected Officials Committee would follow the Land Use Committee was made, seconded, and approved by unanimous voice vote.

#### **Land Use Committee Report.**

Commissioner Loeb reported that Land Use Committee met on February 7, 2023. Commissioner Loeb noted that the Committee recommended approving Charges 51, 52, 48,49, 50, 53, 54, and 55 all of which require publication of decisions and notices on the City website.

The language for these provisions will need to be drafted by the attorneys to the Commission, with the concepts being the following:

- The goal of these provisions is to have the Land Use boards (Planning Board, Zoning Board, and ZBA) publish their maps, decisions, and notices on their websites, with a clear description of the property involved and a summary description of the matter.
- Notices should continue to be published in the newspaper and should clearly identify the property and include a summary description of the project.
- The Master plan and Zoning regulations should also be required to be posted on the Planning Board site and the Zoning Board site respectively.
- Zoning and Planning Board decisions should not be made at the meeting when the public hearing is terminated.
- Public notices also be posted on a board at the Government Center.

<b>Charge Number</b>	<b>Charter Section</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Committee Action</b>	<b>Commission Action</b>
51	§C6-30-12	Boards and Commissions/Planning Board- Require publication of all decisions on the city website	Approved 5-0-0	Approved 11-0-0
52	§C6-30-15	Boards and Commissions/Planning Board- Require publication of all decisions on the city website	Approved 5-0-0	Approved 11-0-0
48	§C6-30-2	Boards and Commissions/Planning Board- Require the Official Map to be posted on the City website	Approved 5-0-0	Approved 11-0-0
49	§C6-30-4	Boards and Commissions/Planning Board- Require the Master Plan to be available on the city website	Approved 5-0-0	Approved 11-0-0
50	§C6-30-9	Boards and Commissions/Planning Board- Require all public notices to be posted on the city website	Approved 5-0-0	Approved 11-0-0
53	§C6-40-11	Boards and Commissions/Zoning Board- Require all public notices to be posted on the city website	Approved 5-0-0	Approved 11-0-0
54	§ C6-40-15	Boards and Commissions/Zoning Board- Require publication of all decisions on City website	Approved 5-0-0	Approved 11-0-0
55	§ C6-40-16	Boards and Commissions/Zoning Board- Require publication of all decisions on City website	Approved 5-0-0	Approved 11-0-0

A motion to approve Charges 51, 52, 48,49, 50, 53, 54, and 55 to require publication of maps, decisions, and notices on the City website was made, seconded, and approved by a vote of 11-0-0 (Comms. Bilicznianski, Camporeale, Halpern, Lane, Larobina, Loeb, Lombardo, Martinez, Michelson, Pramberger

and Williams in favor). (Comms. Bowser, and McMullen had technical issues and were not able to vote; Comm. Pioli was not present for the vote.)

Commissioner Loeb noted that the committee discussed Charges 60, 100, 102, 103, 105 related to the land use petition process, Charge 99 regarding election to the Zoning Board and the Planning Board, and Charge 91 related to scrivener's errors, as noted below. A motion to remove all of these charges was made and seconded. A motion to consider each of these items separately was made, seconded and approved by a vote of 12-0-0 (Comms. Bilicznianski, Camporeale, Halpern, Lane, Larobina, Loeb, Lombardo, Martinez, Michelson, Pioli, Pramberger, and Williams in favor).

60	§C6-30-7 et seq.	Boards and Commissions/Planning & Zoning Boards - Clarify rights of renters in petition process	Committee determined that renters will not have rights in petition process	Charge Removed 8-5-0
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A motion to remove Charge 60 was made, seconded, and approved by a vote of 11-0-0 (Comms. Camporeale, Halpern, Larobina, Loeb, Lombardo, Martinez, McMullen, Michelson in favor; Comm. Bilicznianski, Lane, Pioli, Pramberger, and Williams opposed).

100	Sec C6-40-5 et seq.	Boards and Commissions/Zoning Board-Increase time limit for petition to 15 or 30 days	Committee was advised by legal counsel that the time limit needs to stay at 10 days.	Charge removed 12-2-0
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A motion to remove Charge 100 was made, seconded, and approved by a vote of 13-0-0 (Comms. Bowser, Camporeale, Halpern, Lane, Larobina, Loeb, Lombardo, Martinez, McMullen, Michelson, Pramberger, and Williams in favor; Comms. Bilicznianski, Pioli opposed).

102	Sec C6-40-5 et seq.	Boards and Commissions/Zoning Board- Remove ability to petition.	Committee disagreed 5-0-0	Charge removed 14-0-0
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A motion to remove Charge 102 was made, seconded, and approved by a vote of 14-0-0 (Comms. Bilicznianski, Bowser, Camporeale, Halpern, Lane, Larobina, Loeb, Lombardo, Martinez, McMullen, Michelson, Pioli, Pramberger, and Williams in favor).

103	Sec C6-40-5 et seq.	Boards and Commissions/Zoning Board- Raise the number of signatures necessary for a valid petition	Committee disagreed 5-0-0	Charge removed 14-0-0
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A motion to remove Charge 103 was made, seconded, and approved by a vote of 14-0-0 (Comms. Bilicznianski, Bowser, Camporeale, Halpern, Lane, Larobina, Loeb, Lombardo, Martinez, McMullen, Michelson, Pioli, Pramberger, and Williams in favor).

105	Sec C6-40-5 et seq.	Boards and Commissions/Zoning Board- Allow any taxpayer to sign a petition	The committee believes this should be limited to landowners and is superfluous.	Charge removed 14-0-0
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A motion to remove Charge 105 was made, seconded, and approved by a vote of 14-0-0 (Comms. Bilicznianski, Bowser, Camporeale, Halpern, Lane, Larobina, Loeb, Lombardo, Martinez, McMullen, Michelson, Pioli, Pramberger, and Williams in favor).

99	Sec C1-80-1	Boards and Commissions/Planning & Zoning Boards - Members of Zoning Board and Planning Board should be elected and have term limits	Committee disagreed 5-0-0; these Boards should not be politicized and this might disrupt the Special Act	Charge removed 14-0-0
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A motion to remove Charge 99 was made, seconded, and approved by a vote of 14-0-0 (Comms. Bilicznianski, Bowser, Camporeale, Halpern, Lane, Larobina, Loeb, Lombardo, Martinez, McMullen, Michelson, Pioli, Pramberger, and Williams in favor).

91	Various sections	General Charter Changes-Scriveners' errors (e.g. – clarifying Board / Commission; elimination of C6-30-21; inconsistent language in C6-40-19; removal of references to “after the master plan”)	Committee voted to direct Attorney Mednick to clean up language to correct these errors.	Approved 14-0-0
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A motion to approve Charge 91 and direct Attorney Mednick to clean up this language was made, seconded, and approved by a vote of 14-0-0 (Comms. Bilicznianski, Bowser, Camporeale, Halpern, Lane, Larobina, Loeb, Lombardo, Martinez, McMullen, Michelson, Pioli, Pramberger, and Williams in favor).

#### **City Departments Committee Report.**

Commissioner Williams reported that City Departments Committee met on Tuesday, February 7, 2023 and reviewed the status of the various charges assigned to the committee as follows:

<b>Charge Number</b>	<b>Charter Section</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Committee Action</b>	<b>Commission Action</b>
13	§C2-10-2	Board of Representatives/Powers - Allow citizen petitions to be received, reviewed, and adjudicated by Board of Representatives	The Committee voted to move this charge to the Land Use Committee.	Charge removed 14-0-0

Commission members discussed whether there any petitions outside of the Land Use which the Board of Representatives adjudicates. A motion to remove this charge was made, seconded, and approved by a vote of 14-0-0 (Comms. Bilicznianski, Bowser, Camporeale, Halpern, Lane, Larobina, Loeb, Lombardo, Martinez, McMullen, Michelson, Pioli, Pramberger, and Williams in favor).

14	§C2-10-2	Board of Representatives/Powers- Require Board of Representatives to approve all amendments to signed contracts.	The committee voted to substitute the following: “All contracts have to be posted on the City's website. Moreover, all multi-year contracts must be approved by the Board of Representatives.”	Motion to amend Approved 6-5-3.
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Attorney Mednick noted that it is already clear that all multi-year contracts require legislative approval. Contracts with options and renewals are multi-year contracts. Commission members discussed whether this could be changed with a change to the Purchasing Ordinance. A motion to amend the language as

noted above was made, seconded, and approved by a vote of 6-5-3 (Comms. Camporeale, Halpern, Martinez, McMullen, Pramberger, and Williams in favor; Comms. Larobina, Loeb, Lombardo, Michelson, and Pioli opposed; and Comms. Bilicznianski, Bowser, and Lane abstaining).

15	§C2-10-7	Board of Representatives/Records- Modernize and look into digitizing City records to expand public access to these records, including (but not limited to) the voting records of elected officials	Attorney Mednick will be providing language.	No need for Commission to act yet
17	§ C2-10- 12	Board of Representatives / Passage of Ordinances and Resolutions- Clarify the ordinance process to require that draft ordinances must be published, and a public hearing be held by Committee prior to approval by committee and clarify when a second public hearing must be held if a draft ordinance is revised.	Attorney Mednick will be providing language.	No need for Commission to act yet
20	§. C3-10- 13	Executive/Annual Report- Require that all annual reports be posted to City's website	All the reports are currently on the City's website, so there is nothing that needs to be done. The Committee recommends that this should be removed.	Charge approved 14-0-0

A motion to require annual reports to be on the City website was made, seconded, and approved by a vote of 14-0-0 (Comms. Bilicznianski, Bowser, Camporeale, Halpern, Lane, Larobina, Loeb, Lombardo, Martinez, McMullen, Michelson, Pioli, Pramberger, and Williams in favor).

21	§C4-10-1	Town Clerk- Add language that requires a Town Clerk upon election to appoint a deputy Town Clerk.	The committee requests the full Commission rejects this proposal and take no action. This is not an issue for Charter Review and is covered by State Statute.	Charge removed 14-0-0
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A motion to reject this charge was made, seconded, and approved by a vote of 14-0-0 (Comms. Bilicznianski, Bowser, Camporeale, Halpern, Lane, Larobina, Loeb, Lombardo, Martinez, McMullen, Michelson, Pioli, Pramberger, and Williams in favor).

22	§ C4-10-1	Town Clerk – Add record management and archival functions to the duties of the Town Clerk.	The committee requests the full Commission rejects this proposal and take no action. This is not an issue for Charter Review and is covered by State Statute.	Charge removed 14-0-0
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A motion to reject this charge was made, seconded, and approved by a vote of 14-0-0 (Comms. Bilicznianski, Bowser, Camporeale, Halpern, Lane, Larobina, Loeb, Lombardo, Martinez, McMullen, Michelson, Pioli, Pramberger, and Williams in favor).

24	§ C5-10-1, C5-30-1	City Departments / Operations– Look into restructuring all departments under the Operations Department including potential additional director level positions or cabinet level positions.	The committee requests the full Commission rejects this proposal and take no action. It was agreed that we do NOT want to add additional positions to the Charter.	Charge removed 11-1-0
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A motion to reject this charge was made, seconded, and approved by a vote of 11-1-0 (Comms. Bowser, Lane, Larobina, Loeb, Lombardo, Martinez, McMullen, Michelson, Pioli, Pramberger, and Williams in favor; Comm. Halpern opposed; Comms. Bilicznianski, Camporeale not voting).

25		City Departments / Public Safety – Create an Office of Emergency Management with a full time Bureau Chief	The committee requests the full Commission rejects this proposal and take no action. It was agreed that we do NOT want to add additional positions to the Charter. The BOR could do this by ordinance and it is governed by State statute	Charge removed 14-0-0
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A motion to reject this charge was made, seconded, and approved by a vote of 14-0-0 (Comms. Bilicznianski, Bowser, Camporeale, Halpern, Lane, Larobina, Loeb, Lombardo, Martinez, McMullen, Michelson, Pioli, Pramberger, and Williams in favor).

26	§ C5-10-1	City Departments / Public Safety - Separate Public Safety and Health and Welfare on cabinet level into a Director of Public Safety and a Director of Health and Welfare.	The committee requests the full Commission rejects this proposal and take no action. It was agreed that we do NOT want to add additional positions to the Charter.	Charge removed 14-0-0
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A motion to reject this charge was made, seconded, and approved by a vote of 14-0-0 (Comms. Bilicznianski, Bowser, Camporeale, Halpern, Lane, Larobina, Loeb, Lombardo, Martinez, McMullen, Michelson, Pioli, Pramberger, and Williams in favor).

27	§ C5-10-1	City Departments / Operations - Create a cabinet level position, Director of Facilities Management, Construction and Energy for all Municipal buildings and schools.	The committee requests the full Commission rejects this proposal and take no action. It was agreed that we do NOT want to add additional positions to the Charter.	Charge removed 14-0-0
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A motion to reject this charge was made, seconded, and approved by a vote of 14-0-0 (Comms. Bilicznianski, Bowser, Camporeale, Halpern, Lane, Larobina, Loeb, Lombardo, Martinez, McMullen, Michelson, Pioli, Pramberger, and Williams in favor).

29	§ C5-20-3	Review whether the Board of Representatives, Board of Education and Board of Finance should have their own legal counsel	The Committee is still discussing this item	No need for Commission to act yet
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30	§ C5-20-3	City Departments/Legal- Review whether the City should have a dedicated tax attorney, to represent the city's interests for appeals of tax bills	The Corporation Counsel said that he believes his office has the necessary resources to address this issue. We would ask the full Commission to reject this proposal and take no action. It was agreed that we do NOT want to add additional positions to the Charter.	Charge removed 14-0-0.
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A motion to reject this charge was made, seconded, and approved by a vote of 14-0-0 (Comms. Bilicznianski, Bowser, Camporeale, Halpern, Lane, Larobina, Loeb, Lombardo, Martinez, McMullen, Michelson, Pioli, Pramberger, and Williams in favor).

32	§ C5-20- 20	City Departments - Clarify residency requirement	The Committee supports having a residency requirement for the following positions: Chief of Police, Fire Chief, Director of Operations, Corporation Counsel, Director of Human Resources, and Director of Public Safety, Health, and Welfare and have Attorney Mednick develop language	Approved 11-3-0
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A motion to approve this charge and direct Attorney Mednick to draft language was made, seconded, and approved by a vote of 11-3-0 (Comms. Bowser, Camporeale, Halpern, Lane, Loeb, Lombardo, Martinez,

McMullen, Michelson, Pramberger, and Williams in favor; Comms. Bilicznianski, Pioli, and Larobina opposed).

33	§ C5-30-5	City Departments / Parks & Rec Functions - Clarify and clean up C5-30-5(4) (Parks & Recreation); have one person fill this role	The committee requests the full Commission rejects this proposal and take no action.	No need for Commission to act yet
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There was extensive discussion regarding this charge. The current responsibilities are filled by one person. This position is not being filled. Attorney Mednick suggested that the language should designate that the Operations Department is responsible for this function and not specify a position. The Committee will discuss this further.

34	§ C5-40-1	Clarify the role of Director of Emergency Management and potentially remove Director of Emergency Management from under Director of Public Safety	The committee will continue to discuss this	No need for Commission to act yet
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35	§ C5-40-3	City Departments/Public Safety - Correction of scrivener's error - "their" should be "there"		Approved 14-0-0.
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A motion to approve this charge was made, seconded, and approved by a unanimous voice vote of 14-0-0 (Comms. Bilicznianski, Bowser, Camporeale, Halpern, Lane, Larobina, Loeb, Lombardo, Martinez, McMullen, Michelson, Pioli, Pramberger, and Williams in favor).

68	§ C6-140-8	Consider adding "failure to adhere to the City's Charter and/or Code of Ordinances"	The committee will continue to discuss this	No need for Commission to act yet
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85		General Charter Changes - Make use of City Engineer and Municipal Engineer consistent - Correction of scrivener's error -	Change all references as "City Engineer"	Approved 14-0-0.
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A motion to approve this charge was made, seconded, and approved by a unanimous voice vote of 14-0-0 (Comms. Bilicznianski, Bowser, Camporeale, Halpern, Lane, Larobina, Loeb, Lombardo, Martinez, McMullen, Michelson, Pioli, Pramberger, and Williams in favor).



86		Consider including compliance with the ADA and accessibility throughout Charter including venues for meetings;	Attorney Cooper said ADA compliance already required under Federal and State law. The Committee will work with Attorney Mednick to come up with language	No need for Commission to act yet
87		Consider including compliance with the ADA and accessibility throughout Charter including Government postings;	Attorney Cooper said ADA compliance already required under Federal and State law. The Committee will work with Attorney Mednick to come up with language	No need for Commission to act yet
88		Consider including compliance with the ADA and accessibility throughout Charter including Documents;	Attorney Cooper said ADA compliance already required under Federal and State law. The Committee will work with Attorney Mednick to come up with language	No need for Commission to act yet
89		Consider including compliance with the ADA and accessibility throughout Charter including Interpreters;	Attorney Cooper said ADA compliance already required under Federal and State law. The Committee will work with Attorney Mednick to come up with language	No need for Commission to act yet
90		Consider including compliance with the ADA and accessibility throughout Charter including Closed captioning	Attorney Cooper said ADA compliance already required under Federal and State law. The Committee will work with Attorney Mednick to come up with language	No need for Commission to act yet
107		Boards and Commissions - focusing on creating more proactive citizen engagement earlier in the process	The Committee asks that the full Commission move this matter to the Appointed Boards Committee.	This charge is being addressed by the Finance Committee

113		FOIA - Require conspicuous link on City website homepage for FOIA requests and appoint a FOIA officer on a centralized basis and within each department to respond to FOIA requests within one business day	The Law Department does have someone assigned to FOIA issues. The Committee requested that the Commission reject this proposal and take no action.	Charge removed 14-0-0.
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A motion to reject this charge was made, seconded, and approved by a unanimous vote of 14-0-0 (Comms. Bilicznianski, Bowser, Camporeale, Halpern, Lane, Larobina, Loeb, Lombardo, Martinez, McMullen, Michelson, Pioli, Pramberger, and Williams in favor).

114	C5-20-3	Office of Legal Affairs/Board of Representatives - Remove requirement that Leadership submit resolution for hiring of independent counsel for Board of Representatives	This is being worked on in conjunction with another issue	No need for Commission to act yet
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118	§C5-40-3	Public Safety/Fire - Preserve the Volunteer Fire Service	This was already voted on as a result of the last Charter Revision. The current Charter does not take away the Volunteer Fire Service.	Charge removed 14-0-0.
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A motion to reject this charge was made, seconded, and approved by a unanimous vote of 14-0-0 (Comms. Bilicznianski, Bowser, Camporeale, Halpern, Lane, Larobina, Loeb, Lombardo, Martinez, McMullen, Michelson, Pioli, Pramberger, and Williams in favor).

120	§. C2-10-2	Board of Representatives/Powers - BOR cannot pass legislation impacting the duties of the other elected boards without a majority of that board in concurrence	The Committee asks the full Commission reject this proposal and take no action. This is within the BOR's legislative powers	Charge removed 14-0-0.
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A motion to reject this charge was made, seconded, and approved by a unanimous vote of 14-0-0 (Comms. Bilicznianski, Bowser, Camporeale, Halpern, Lane, Larobina, Loeb, Lombardo, Martinez, McMullen, Michelson, Pioli, Pramberger, and Williams in favor).

121	§ C5-20-20(b)	City Departments / Directors - Public Safety Executives must live within City boundaries (Police Chief, Fire Chief, and Director of Public Safety) le	The Committee asks the full Commission reject this proposal. Already included in Charge 32	Charge removed 11-3-0.
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A motion to reject this charge was made, seconded, and approved by a vote of 11-3-0 (Comms. Bowser, Camporeale, Halpern, Lane, Loeb, Lombardo, Martinez, McMullen, Michelson, Pramberger, and Williams in favor; Comms. Bilicznianski, Larobina and Pioli opposed).

123	C5-30-5	City Departments/Parks & Rec Functions - remove requirement for Superintendent of Parks and Recreation from C5-30-5. Consistent with the current administration's vision	This is being worked on in conjunction with another issue which is being held	No need for Commission to act yet
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#### **Elected Officials Committee Report.**

Chair Lombardo announced that the report of the Elected Officials Committee would be first at the next full meeting of the Commission.

#### **Finance Committee Report.**

Chair Lombardo announced that the report of the Finance Committee would be taken up at the next full meeting of the Commission.

A motion to hold the minutes from January 11 and January 28<sup>th</sup> was made, seconded, and approved by unanimous voice vote (Comms. Bilicznianski, Bowser, Camporeale, Halpern, Lane, Larobina, Loeb, Lombardo, Martinez, McMullen, Michelson, Pioli, Pramberger, and Williams in favor).

The next meeting will be at 9:00 a.m.

Chair Lombardo adjourned the meeting at 10:27 p.m.

*This meeting is available on [video](#).*