

Woodbury Democratic Town Committee
P.O. Box 1137
Woodbury, Connecticut 06798

Charter Revision Commission
281 Main Street South
Post Office Box 369
Woodbury, Connecticut 06798-0369

July 13, 2010

To Charter Revision Commission members:

As of October 1, 2010, Public Act 10-171 exempts towns from the requirement that meeting minutes and the agendas of regularly scheduled meetings of town public agencies (e.g., boards and commissions) be posted on town websites.

For towns with websites, however, the bill explicitly requires that notices and agendas of special meetings be posted on such websites at least 24 hours in advance, and it also requires that such notices be delivered to the Town Clerk's office, and to the abode of each member of the public agency, unless the member waives this requirement. Emergency special meetings are exempted, but agencies are required to specify the nature of the emergency in writing.

However, the Act permits adoption of more stringent requirements. In order to promote openness and transparency in local government and to enable unencumbered access by members of the public to information necessary for them to participate actively in town governance, we request that the Charter Revision Commission include the following requirements in the revised Town Charter:

At all times as the Town of Woodbury maintains a town website:

1. Agendas and minutes for all public meetings of town boards and commissions, including those for special meetings, shall be posted on the town website.
2. Each meeting agenda shall be posted at least 24 hours in advance of the meeting. (Note: This time period is identical to the requirement for hard-copy posting of agendas.)
3. Minutes shall be posted within the time periods required by state statute for delivery of minutes to the Town Clerk's office.

An informed public is essential to the town meeting form of government in Woodbury. Providing agendas and minutes on the town website is important to increase transparency in town government and to encourage active public participation.

The attachment contains a proposed change to Section 1009 of the Town Charter to implement the above provisions.

Sincerely,

Lesla Peters, DTC Chair
On behalf of the Democratic Town Committee