

# Sprague Charter Commission

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Presentation of Draft  
Charter to Joint  
Meeting of Boards and  
Commissions  
July 29, 2008

# Sprague Charter Commission

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## ■ Goals

- Creating a government compatible with Sprague's unique history
- Setting forth authority of each official, board and commission
- Establishing executive, legislative and administrative authority
- Creating a citizen guide to town government

# Sprague Charter Commission

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## ■ Brief History

- Start Date October 12, 2007
- Public Hearing November 13, 2007
- Public Hearing TBA September 2008
- Draft due to Board of Selectmen February 12, 2009
- Final report due April 30, 2009
- Town Vote General Election 2009

# Sprague Charter Commission

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- Commission Members
  - Dick Douville, Acting Chairman
  - Susan Zimmerman, Secretary
  - Kord Jablonski
  - Joe Osowski

# Sprague Charter Commission

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- Proposed Changes
  - Five-member Board of Selectmen
  - Four-year term for First Selectman and Board of Selectmen
  - Hired Town Clerk, Town Treasurer, and Tax Collector
  - Appointed Planning and Zoning Commission
  - Majority representation consistent with state statutes

# Sprague Charter Commission

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- Five-member Board of Selectmen
  - Will remain 3 to 2 majority representation
  - Terms increased to 4 years
  - First Selectman is voting member
  - Administrative responsibilities

# Sprague Charter Commission

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- First Selectman
  - Term increased to four years
  - Appointing authority defined
  - Administrative responsibilities defined

# Sprague Charter Commission

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- Hired Town Clerk, Town Treasurer, and Tax Collector
  - Allows for qualified individuals
  - Consistency
  - Continuation of experience
  - Increases Pool
  - Removal by Board of Selectmen

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- Appointed Planning and Zoning Commission
  - Suggested by commission
  - Permits development of expertise

# Sprague Charter Commission

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- Majority representation consistent with state statutes
  - 1949 Special Act is confusing to voters
    - Establishes bare majority representation for Boards of Assessment and Appeals, Finance, and Education
    - Limits each party to no more than one-half of number to be elected
  - All boards and commissions whether elected or appointed would be consistent

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- What's not changed
  - First Selectman remains administrative officer
  - Town Meeting remains legislative body
  - Board of Finance establishes financial policy and administers town budget
  - Planning and Zoning establishes zoning policy

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- Topics for further discussion
  - Draft is preliminary--our only constraint is the CT General Statutes
  - Charter Commission welcomes feedback from all interested boards and commissions
  - Specific topics to consider are public emergency, land acquisition, terms of appointed and elected boards, town meeting

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## ■ Next Steps

- Draft available for review by boards, commissions, and First Selectman
- Comments to Charter Commission prior to August 12 meeting or at August 12 meeting
- Revised draft presented at public hearing in September