

ANDOVER CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION  
PUBLIC HEARING  
THURSDAY, APRIL 28, 2022  
MINUTES

Public Hearing was called to order at 7 p.m. by Chairman, Carol Lee.

Members Present; Patricia Billings, Donald Denley, George Knox, Carol Lee and Karen Madore

Public present; See attachment # 1

Wallace Barton suggested that the commission look at revising the town budget process so that the Town Budget Referendum can be held on the same day as the RHAM Budget Referendum.

Gerry Crème – Chairman of the Andover Board of Education explained the attached Board of Education letter requesting that the commission conduct a study before moving forward with bifurcation of the budget. See attachment #2. Gerry also spoke as a resident asking that we work together as a community to get the budget passed.

Shannon Loudon stated that there was a lot of contention last year throughout the budget process and she feels that bifurcation will cause further division, pitting one against the other. She also asked that we don't take away from the Town Administrator qualification list, but add a more comprehensive list.

Steve Fuss is concerned that the non-binding question on bifurcation from the June 22, 2021 was not acted on until March, 2022 and now with the final report from Charter Revision Commission due by July 11, 2022, there is not enough time to allow for a full study of potential future implications. He further stated that Hebron conducted a full bifurcation study in 2011 and determined that it was not a good idea for Hebron, he asked that we hold off on making a decision until a full study can be done to ensure that bifurcation is in the town's best interest.

Marcie Miner stated that there were an overwhelming number of voters who answered the non-binding advisory question in favor of bifurcating the budget and if we fail to move the bifurcation forward, we would be going against the wishes of the people. She said the Board of Selectmen were busy with other things and that is why they didn't bring up the bifurcation question prior to this.

Shannon Loudon would like to see the non-binding advisory question of; "Do you think the budget is just right?" added to future budget referendum ballots. She would also like to know the demographic of voters from the June 22, 2021 referendum.

Liz Lokiec supports bifurcation of the budget. She said that the Board of Education budget is consistently too high and it shuts the town down from doing other things.

Mary Holer stated that keeping the budget together forces the town to work together. She is worried about the school and she wants to see the school continue to thrive.

Anne Crème would like to see a study completed and put the bifurcation question on the ballot next year.

After all public input was received, the Public Hearing was adjourned at 7:26 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Carol H. Lee

PUBLIC HEARING  
APRIL 28, 2022  
SIGN IN SHEET

NAME

ADDRESS

Dallace Barton  
Carol Barton  
Anne Creme  
Gerard Creme  
Marcie Miner  
Scott Person  
Sharon E. Warden  
Liz Lofgren  
Mary Acker  
STEVEN FESS

463 Lake Rd  
463 Lake Rd  
8 Wood Fern Way  
8 Wood Fern Way  
80 West St  
265 Rt. 6  
240 Bear Swamp Rd  
343 Lake Rd  
16 Rockledge Dr  
145 Lane 1A



## Andover School District

35 School Road  
Andover, CT 06232  
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Fax (860) 742-8288  
[www.andoverelementaryct.org](http://www.andoverelementaryct.org)

Valerie E. Bruneau  
*Superintendent*

John P. Briody  
*Principal/Director of Curriculum*

Holly L. Maiorano  
*Director of Special Education*

April 28, 2022

**VIA EMAIL**

Ms. Carol Lee, Chair  
Andover Charter Revision Commission  
17 School Road  
Andover, CT 06232

**Re: Andover Board of Education Resolution**

Dear Madame Chair:

On behalf of the Andover Board of Education (hereinafter "BOE"), I am writing to inform you and the Andover Charter Revision Commission that, at a Special Meeting of the Andover BOE on the evening of April 27, 2022, the BOE unanimously (7-0-0) voted to approve of the following resolution:


"The Board of Education recommends to the Charter Revision Commission that they not move forward with the recommendation to bifurcate the budget due to the fact that a study cannot be conducted within this timeframe and it not be re-evaluated until such time that a study can be conducted."

While the BOE understands that it has no authority over the Charter Revision Commission, we hope that the Commission will take into consideration our unanimous resolution as the elected representatives of policies affecting the Andover Elementary School and its budget. Our resolution was reached after discussion and careful consideration of the Commission's directives, during which special concern was raised regarding the BOE's belief that a study – as was promulgated by Hebron in 2011 – was warranted before such a significant change to Andover's Charter was recommended by the Commission. The BOE then determined that the short timeframe given to the Commission by Andover's Board of Selectmen to prepare a final report regarding its recommendations for changes to Andover's Charter was insufficient for the Commission to conduct a study or the like to best understand whether bifurcating the Town's votes into a vote on the Town's budget and a separate vote on the BOE's budget was, in fact: (1) representative of the opinions of a majority of the voting citizens of Andover and (2) in the Town's best interests.

Ms. Carol Lee, Chair  
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Thank you for your consideration. We appreciate your work on behalf of Andover.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Gerard J. Cremé". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Gerard J. Cremé  
Chair, Andover Board of Education