

Press Release



For Immediate Release
July 18, 2005

For more information, please contact
Tom Mahon, Charter Commission Chairman
(603) 225-2841

Merrimack Charter Commission Seeks Public Input *First Public Hearing Set for Tuesday, July 26, 2005 at 7PM*

Merrimack, NH – The Merrimack Charter Commission will hold the “Public Meeting” required by RSA 49-B on July 26, 2005 at 7:00 PM in the East Wing Conference Room of Town Hall. All residents interested in providing their views on the Commission’s task of reviewing the Town’s form of government are urged to attend the meeting and be heard. Those wishing to speak will need to sign in and speakers will be heard in order.

The Commission is particularly interested in hearing resident views on the current form of government and the other forms allowed by law. Under the laws governing its activities, the Commission can recommend that a charter not be adopted (no change); recommend one of the town forms provided in RSA 49-D; or recommend changing from a town form to a city form as provided in RSA 49-C. Copies of the statutes are available at the Merrimack Public Library, online at the State of New Hampshire’s web site, and the recently activated Charter Commission’s web site. Current charters from both NH cities and towns are also on the Commission’s site.

The *town* forms permitted under RSA 49-D are the council-manager form where the council is both the governing and legislative body (such as the Town of Durham); the council-manager form with budgetary town meeting (such as the Town of Bedford); the official ballot town council (such as the Town of Hooksett); and the representative town meeting (no NH examples).

The *city* forms permitted under RSA 49-C are the mayor-alderman and the council-manager. In both of these city forms, the duties of the governing and legislative body are vested in a mayor and board of alderman or the city council. The mayor would be the chief administrative officer in the mayor-alderman form (examples include the City of Nashua and the City of Manchester). The city manager would be the chief administrative officer in the council-manager form (examples include all other New Hampshire cities).

The nine member Merrimack Charter Commission was elected on June 21, 2005. The Commission must present a preliminary report to several state agencies by December 18, 2005. Time is of the essence and input from the community will assist the Commission in its task. Residents are also invited to attend the Commission meetings, which are scheduled for each Tuesday at 7pm from now until the first of November. There will be an opportunity for comment and questions from the public at each meeting.

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State of New Hampshire's Web Site: <http://www.nh.gov>

Merrimack Charter Commission's Web Site: <http://charter.merrimacknh.org>

The Merrimack Public Library is located at the corner of Baboosic Lake Road and Daniel Webster Highway in Merrimack, NH.