

## Item 1 | Call to Order

April 3, 2023 Bylaw Review Committee Meeting called to order at 7:02 via Zoom.

Members present: Chair Dan Lieber, Lucy Fox, Joe Pride, Katherine Howitt, Tim Lilley. Katherine Howitt taking minutes.

Eric Reid joined at 7:21

Town Counsel Tom Mullen also present.

All votes were taken by roll call.

## Item 2 | Public Engagement

No engagement from members of the public.

## Item 3 | Minutes March 20, 2023

Motion to approve minutes from March 20, 2023 meeting as presented. Lucy moves to vote, Tim seconds. Unanimous vote for approval of minutes; motion approved.

## Item 4 | Review Bylaws

### A. Chapter 9 (Boards, Committees, and Commissions) – Request for Online Meetings

A member of the public had asked Chair Lieber to consider a bylaw that would require all town committees to conduct meetings either entirely virtually or using a hybrid format. Committee members discussed what the logistical and practical barriers might be, and whether the town had sufficient technological capacity and meeting rooms that could accommodate hybrid meetings.

### B. Chapter 36 (Meetings) Location/Start/Debate/Disability Accommodations

Chair Lieber shared that current state law only permits hybrid town meetings for representative town meetings but not for open town meeting. Committee members discussed whether we should consider asking the legislature to change the state law to provide towns the option of hosting open town meetings virtually (or using a hybrid format.) Advantages discussed: removing barriers for participating in town meetings for seniors, people with disabilities, parents and other caretakers, and others with limited access to transportation. Disadvantages discussed were primarily logistical; for example, how could the town verify the identity of voters who participate virtually? Chair Lieber will talk with Town Administrator and Town Moderator about these issues, and will raise this discussion again at a future meeting of the committee.

### C. Chapter 130 (Hunting and Trapping)

No substantive discussion or changes recommended by committee members

### D. Chapter 138 (Lake Quannapowitt)

No substantive discussion or changes recommended by committee members

### E. Chapter 142 (Licenses and Permits)

No substantive discussion or changes recommended by committee members

### F. Chapter 143 (Fingerprint-Based Criminal Record Background Checks)

No substantive discussion or changes recommended by committee members

## Item 5 | Upcoming Dates

A. Town Election: Tuesday, April 25

Chair Lieber encouraged Committee members to educate themselves on the issues and the candidates in competitive races and to make sure to vote.

B. Next Meeting(s): Monday, May 1 7:00 PM

This is tentatively scheduled to be the Committee's second meeting with Attorney Bobrowski

C. Annual Town Meeting: Monday, May 15th 7:00 PM – Galvin Middle School

The Committee expects to have 4-5 articles on the warrant at this town meeting. Discussion of process for presenting these articles.

Item 6 | Adjournment Zoom

Joe motions to adjourn; Eric seconds the motion. Unanimous vote to adjourn the meeting at 8:31pm.

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Minutes approved May 1, 2023.