

MINUTES OF BYLAW REVIEW COMMITTEE – MAY 1, 2023 – By Zoom

Item 1 | Call to Order

May 1, 2023 ByLaw Review Committee meeting called to order at 7:03 via Zoom.

Members present: Chair Dan Lieber, Katherine Howitt, Tim Lilley, Ann Santos, Joe Pride. Members of the Planning Board and Zoning Board of Appeals also present. Katherine Howitt taking minutes.

Kevin York joined at 7:05.

All votes were taken by roll call.

Item 2 | Public Engagement

No engagement from members of the public.

Item 3 | Minutes

Motion to approve minutes from April 3, 2023 meeting as presented. Ann moves to vote, Tim seconds. Unanimous vote for approval of minutes; motion approved.

Item 4 | Election of Chair and possible Vice-Chair

Ann nominates Chair Lieber for re-election as Chair. Tim seconds. Unanimous vote to re-elect Chair Lieber as Chair.

Chair Lieber nominates Ann for vice chair. Katherine seconds. Unanimous vote to re-elect Ann as Vice-Chair.

Item 5 | Review Bylaws

Attorney Mark Bobrowski shared drafts of proposed sections 1, 5 and 10 of zoning bylaws, walked through his suggested changes to these sections, answered questions from the group and took feedback and input on areas where there remain questions or that the group would like changed.

Attorney Bobrowski outlined his typical process, which is to continue sharing updated drafts and refining them based on the group's feedback; once the group feels good about the draft, a workshop meeting would be set up to invite additional stakeholders and to get additional feedback before the proposed Bylaws would be brought to Town Meeting to be voted on.

Section 1 – Purpose and Authority

Feedback from committee members focused primarily on some of the proposed purposes for the Zoning Bylaw, as outlined in draft section 1.2. Committee members expressed concern about the draft goal of “retaining the rural character of the Town”, and asked questions about how “overcrowding” is defined.

Section 5.0 – Nonconforming Uses and Structures

Most of the conversation among members focused on whether the Zoning Board of Appeals would grant findings (requiring 2-3 vote) or special permits (requiring 4-1 vote) to allow changes to nonconforming uses and structures.

Section 10 – Administration and Procedures

Attorney Bobrowski called out the most significant decision that needs to be made in this section, which is whether or not to allow the Zoning Board of Appeals to allow use variances.

Item 6 | Upcoming Dates

Next Meeting(s): Monday, June 5, 7:00 PM and Monday, September 18, 7PM

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

Item 7 | Adjournment

Ann moves to adjourn meeting, Tim seconded. Unanimous vote to adjourn. ByLaw Review Committee meeting adjourned at 9:28 via Zoom.

Minutes approved 6/5/2023.