

Bylaw Review Committee

Minutes for Bylaw Review Committee (The Committee/BRC)

December 5, 2022 at 7pm via Zoom

Item #1: Call to Order

7:00pm Call to Order via Zoom.

Members present: Dan Lieber (Chair); Tim Lilley; Joe Pride; Lucy Fox; Lisa Cutulle; Katherine Howitt; Kevin York; Ann Santos (joined at approximately 7:03); Eric Reid (joined late)

Dan Lieber advised that committee now has 9 members (one member has dropped); so 5 members will now constitute a quorum.

Other Attendees: Town Counsel Tom Mullen; Bob Vincent

Tim Lilley agreed to take the minutes.

Item #2: Public Engagement: Public Participation: None

Item #3:

Ann Santos moved to accept minutes from November 3rd 2022; Katherine Howitt seconded. Roll Call vote. Unanimous to accept minutes.

Ann Santos moved to accept minutes from November 21st 2022; Kevin York seconded. Roll Call vote. Unanimous to accept minutes.

Item #4: Review Bylaws:

- Chapter 9 (Boards, Committees, and Commissions)
 - Per Dan Lieber, no new feedback from other boards.
- Chapter 36 (Meetings)
 - Per Dan Lieber, no feedback from Town Moderator on this item
- C. Chapter 75 (Alarms)
 - Dan Lieber reached out to Police Chief, Fire Chief, Town Council and Town Administrator; received no material feedback
 - Per Ann Santos/Tom Mullen, Town Council has not heard an Alarm Appeal Board issue in recent memory
 - 75-12 has gendered language "his" - Tom Mullen was instructed to amend to more gender-neutral wording.
- D. Chapter 78 (Alcoholic Beverages)
 - No proposed changes from committee
- E. Chapter 82 (Amusements)
 - Article 1: Silly String
 - No proposed changes from committee
- F. Chapter 90 (Brownsfields Tax Abatement Agreements)
 - Town Counsel Mullen recommended we leave this bylaw untouched

- No proposed changes from committee
- G. Chapter 175:8-9 (Streets and Sidewalks: Snow and Ice)
 - The Snow and Ice Article as updated in 2018 was NOT on the Town website (the previous iteration is on the town website). Tom Mullen will work to get the updated version on the website. Dan Lieber shared the “correct” wording with BRC members during the meeting.
 - Dan advised he would reach out to the Chamber of Commerce and “Safe Streets” Committee for any feedback on this bylaw.
 - Bob Vincent mentioned that this bylaw was discussed extensively in the 2018 BRC; they looked at other towns’ respective bylaws at the time
 - It was discussed that some members of the committee (and Town Council Liaison) would look at other towns’ bylaws for comparison purposes, including the below:
 - Bob Vincent: Brookline
 - Tim Lilley: Melrose / Stoneham
 - Katherine Howitt: Reading
 - Dan Lieber advised he will keep this item on the agenda for future meetings

Item #5: Update on Professional Assistance with Zoning Recodification:

- Tom Mullen advised he is waiting for a response from the prospective attorney regarding providing a per hour or per visit cost in the event the BRC requests the attorney’s attendance at more BRC meetings than included in his initial proposal.

Item 6: Upcoming Dates

- Next committee meeting is planned for Tuesday, January 3rd.

Item 7: Adjournment:

- Motion for adjournment at 8:26pm made by Katherine Howitt; seconded by Ann Santos. Roll Call Vote: Unanimous by all.

Minutes approved January 3, 2023.