

Bylaw Review Committee
Minutes of Public Meeting, Held by Zoom
April 8, 2025

Members attending: Bob McGaw, Tom Foley, Roger Read, Liz Goss, Ellen O'Brien Cushman

7:00 PM Chair Bob McGaw convened the meeting.

- Chair McGaw provided a summary of the post Bylaw Review Meeting discussions, emails with Elizabeth Dionne, Chair of the Select Board and Patrice Garvin, Town Administrator regarding the inclusion of the Bylaw Review Committee amendments requested. Bob indicated that after much back and forth, he was told summarily that the Bylaw amendments would not be included in the upcoming warrant for the Annual Town Meeting, nor the May 21st Special Town Meeting. Reasoning was that the Warrant for the meeting had opened and closed already. Bob expressed the opinion that the Bylaw Review Committee is not a citizens' petition subject to the warrant deadlines, and he and Ellen had already provided information to the Town Administrator in January, February and March to indicate the specific articles we want /need to include. The exclusion of the Bylaw amendments was firmed by a statement by the Select Board Chair on April 7, attended by Ellen. Members expressed some dismay that we understood that the work was intended to contribute to the Annual Town Meeting warrant and that it may appear that we are not a committee of the Moderator/Town Meeting but are simply citizens with residential standing, however the Warrant for the Town Meeting belongs to the Select Board and they have exclusive rights to include or not. The amendments are tentatively to be included in the October Special Town Meeting Warrant.
- Review any proposed amendments to the General Bylaws:
- Amendment to § 50-220 Revolving Funds. Text was made available to the Bylaw Review Committee by the Town Administrator's office the day before this meeting, was distributed to Committee Members and posted to the committee Meeting Materials Web page. The Committee members reviewed and made edits principally to conform to the existing subsections in the General Bylaws. The final version is attached to these minutes. On a motion to recommend inclusion of the approved text in the warrant for the Annual Town Meeting, the committee voted by roll call to unanimously support the specific text and inclusion by a vote of 5-0-0 (Yes - Goss, Read, Foley, McGaw, Cushman). Ellen will send the redline and final versions to Bob to transmit to the Town Administrator for inclusion in the Warrant.
- Amendment to Chapter 20, Elected Officials, Article 3, Treasurer to move the section out of Elected Officials and create the same internal text to a new section for Appointed Officials.
- Discussion and possible vote to move the reserved § 40-210 Board of Assessors from Elected Boards to Appointed Boards and discussion and possible vote to advise Town Counsel of need to change from elected to appointed Treasurer and Assessor on the Town Meeting Act, under At Large Town Meeting Members since they are no longer elected officials/voters of the Town. After the last meeting, Tom Foley noticed that the position of Treasurer was still included in Elected Officials and should be moved to a new subsection Appointed Officials, likewise the reserved subsection for the Board of Assessors should be moved to become §40-302 in Chapter 40, Appointed Boards, Commissions and Committees to be listed alphabetically as reserved. Both actions were the result of Town-wide ballot questions. He provided the Committee Members with draft language, also posted to the Committee's website. On a motion by Tom to approve the draft language that includes the reassignment of both the Treasurer and the Board of Assessors, the committee approved unanimously by roll call vote 5-0-0 (Yes, Foley, Read, McGaw, Goss, Cushman). Ellen will forward the final text of the amendment to Bob who will send to the Town Administrator for inclusion in the Special Town Meeting Warrant scheduled for October.
- Discussion of possible topics for future meetings to review amendments filed by deadline. None
- Meeting Minutes of March 25, 2025 not yet available. Will be voted at next meeting.

9:08 PM Meeting adjourned

Respectfully Submitted,

Ellen O'Brien Cushman

Town Clerk, Ex-officio member of Bylaw Review Committee