

BYLAW REVIEW COMMITTEE

Town of Becket
557 Main Street
Becket, MA 01223

Minutes October 8, 2023

PRESENT: Chuck Garman, Bob Gross, Vickie DeLorenzo

ABSENT: None

PUBLIC: Al Blake, Jeff Wilkinson

The meeting was called to order at 10:06 am. Vickie DeLorenzo requested that the meeting be recorded, and it was unanimously agreed.

Meeting agenda

1. Elect a chair, vice chair and clerk for the ensuing year
2. Review the Bylaw Review Committee Charge
3. Discuss plan for how to proceed
4. Set next meeting date and time
5. Adjourn

Elections

Bob Gross (BG) nominated Chuck Garman (CG) to be Chair, Vickie DeLorenzo (VD) seconded. CG nominated VD to be Clerk, seconded by BG, VD nominated BG to be Vice Chair, CG seconded. All motions were passed.

Bylaw Committee Charge

Public attendees included Al Blake, member of the Planning Board and Jeff Wilkinson, member of the Zoning Board.

Al and Jeff attended the meeting to seek some clarification on the delineation between the zoning bylaws, planning bylaws and general bylaws. They were also curious as to how and whether we are going to solicit for new bylaws.

CG communicated that the charge of the Bylaws Committee is to review the present town bylaws, newly proposed bylaws and make recommendations to the Select Board. Of particular importance is ensuring that the current and proposed bylaws are not in

conflict with state laws. Moreover, determine whether newly proposed bylaws may conflict with current bylaws. BG further noted that the Select Board would like the committee to act as an intermediary if a resident/homeowner is proposing a bylaw and share our view on the merits of the proposal.

Regarding the question of soliciting bylaws, the committee members did not believe that to be the charge of the committee. However, BG suggested that we could notify residents/homeowners of the newly formed committee on the Town website and Becket Beat, and that people are welcome to review them, share comments and make proposals.

While all committee meetings are open, Jeff W. mentioned that the Planning Board hosts topic specific meetings with the town and based on that discussion, they make a recommendation to the Select Board who in turn decides whether it becomes a warrant.

Discuss plan for how to proceed

BG agreed to identify bylaw changes that took place from 2017-2023 that were passed and determine if they were incorporated into the most recent bylaws document on website.

CG inviting Bill Elovirta (Select Board member) to the next meeting. BG noted that he has some suggestions he would like to share with the committee.

Research and identify crossover between zoning, planning and general bylaws.

At this time, members agreed to meet monthly and determine prior to each meeting whether virtual access (Zoom) will be offered.

CG contacting Laurie Friedman to invite her to January meeting (hybrid) given her interest discussing dark sky issues.

Content/editing related topics

CG creating Google docs to facilitate sharing of edits. Members agreed to track changes on one master doc and make decisions on suggested edits during in-person meetings.

Beverly is trying to obtain original word doc vs writeable pdf to enable most efficient document editing and sharing.

Once word doc is obtained, VD will make global grammatical and consistency edits (e.g. he to he/she; by-laws to bylaws, Selectmen to Select Board member) as agreed. Additional global edits TBD.

Members agreed that both material and global grammatical edits should be tracked to review with Select Board.

Research needs to be done regarding proper annotation of material changes. It was suggested that Bill Elovirta will have an opinion.

Next meeting

Next meeting scheduled for Wednesday, December 13th @ 10:00 am. January meeting scheduled for January 10th @10:00 am. Future meeting schedule TBD.

By motion of BG, second of CG, meeting was adjourned at 11:10 am.

Respectfully submitted by Vickie DeLorenzo

Approved by Chuck Garman, Chair

Chuck Garman