

BYLAW REVIEW COMMITTEE

Town of Becket
557 Main Street
Becket, MA 01223

Minutes March 20, 2024

PRESENT: Chuck Garman (CG), Vickie DeLorenzo (VD), Robin Mathiesen Town Clerk (Ex-Officio Member) Ethan Klepetar Moderator (Ex-Officio Member)

ZOOM: Bob Gross (BG)

PUBLIC: William Elovirta, Al Blake

Meeting agenda

Call to order

Approval of meeting minutes from March 6, 2024

Discussion of the bylaw additions/amendments for the ATM

Discussion of the updated interim version of the General Bylaws

Any changes to the schedule for the ATM?

Discussion of meeting procedures

Any other business to come before the committee

Adjournment

Call to order

Chuck Garman (CG) called to order at 10:01 AM.

Approval of meeting minutes from March 6th

CG made the motion to approve the minutes from March 6th. Motion seconded by BG. CG calls for roll call vote; BG – aye, VL – aye, CG – aye, motion unanimously approved.

Discussion of the bylaw additions/amendments for the ATM

The committee reviewed the ATM warrant draft page by page. Several formatting changes were suggested, and a number of Select Board appointments were added to the list (Town Bylaw Article 2B – Select Board – Administrator Form of Government Section 4.) Robin Mathiesen and Bill Elovirta noted the committees missing from the list.

CG motioned for the Bylaw Committee to recommend the amendments to the General Bylaws as amended and presented and discussed. Motion seconded by BG. CG calls for roll call vote; BG – aye, VL – aye, CG – aye, motion unanimously approved.

Key Takeaway:

- There were no substantive changes to the document.

Next Steps:

- VL making formatting changes and forwarding document to CG and BG
- CG will forward the document to Kathe Werden.

Discussion of the updated interim version of the General Bylaws

It was discussed and reconfirmed by Robin Mathiesen that the amendments to the current Bylaws have been voted on by residents and approved by the State AG. The current Bylaws should be updated with the approved changes from 2017-2023 and posted on the Town's website.

Key Takeaways:

- BG is finalizing the updates (those approved at prior ATMs as well as the State AG) to the current General Bylaws document on the Town's website.
- Bob will forward the document to Beverly Gilbert to post on the website and request that an email be sent notifying residents that the updated Bylaws are available on the website.
- Bob will make several copies of the updated document to be available at the public hearing scheduled for April 30.

Any changes to the schedule for the ATM?

There were no date changes to the schedule for the ATM. It was suggested and agreed that we would move the proposed time (10:00 AM) of the public hearing on April 30th at 5:00 PM.

Key Takeaways:

- The public hearing will be scheduled for 5:00 PM on April 30th.
- The April committee meeting (Apr 17th) will be canceled.
- The May committee meeting (May 15th) will address issues discussed at the ATM.

Next Steps:

- CG will discuss the procedure and language for advertising the hearing with Beverly Gilbert and execute accordingly.

Discussion of meeting/hearing procedures

VD brought up the issue of whether the committee needed to prepare a summary document of the warrant articles/amendments. Ethan shared that he felt the proposed changes were not complex or controversial enough to warrant a summary.

Key Takeaway:

- A summary of the amendments is not necessary.

Next Steps:

- CG will make sure there are copies of our proposed articles for the Warrant, available for committee members and public attendees.

- Bob will make sure there are several copies of the current/updated General Bylaws available.

Any other business to come before the committee

CG noted that he would like to keep the regularly scheduled Bylaw Committee meetings set as the 3rd Wednesday of the month @10:00 AM as long as there is a quorum.

Bill Elovirta noted during the review of the articles draft that we should investigate staggering the times that constables are elected. All generally agreed this is something we would discuss for 2025.

Adjournment

By motion of CG, second of BG, meeting was adjourned at 11:14 AM.

Respectfully submitted by Vickie DeLorenzo

Approved by Chuck Garman, Chair

Chuck Garman