

BYLAW REVIEW COMMITTEE  
Town of Becket  
557 Main Street  
Becket, MA 01223

Minutes  
June 7, 2017

PRESENT: Bylaw Review Committee: Jeanne Pryor, Chair; Ann Krawet; Bruce Garlow; George Roberts  
ABSENT: Mark Karlberg  
PUBLIC: Jim Mason, Camp Greylock

The meeting was called to order at 10:10 a.m. by the Chair.

**Review minutes of the December 14, 2016, March 22, 2017 and April 5, 2017 meetings**

The minutes of the April 5, 2017 meeting were reviewed and approved on motion of A. Krawet, second of J. Pryor. The minutes of the December 14, 2016 and March 22, 2017 meetings were not available for review.

**Review Town Counsel comments regarding changes to Dog Control Bylaw**

Town Counsel's comments were distributed to the committee. It was agreed that definitions would remain in the amended Bylaw. The review of Town Counsel comments regarding changes to the Dog Control Bylaw will continue at the Committee's next meeting.

**Review amendments to Vacant Properties Bylaw passed at 5/13/17 ATM**

The Chair reported that the amendments to the Vacant Properties Bylaw passed at the 5/13/17 ATM have been sent to the Town Clerk for submission to the Attorney General's Office.

**Discussion - dark skies bylaw request**

Mr. Mason expressed his concerns about lighting at Camp Greylock that is necessary for the safety of young campers who walk in large groups (50-60 people) on walking trails within the camp. They use overhead lighting on poles 12-15' high, pointing down, that are set to turn on at 8pm and off at 2am. Low lighting does not work with large groups as the lights are blocked. Abutters cannot see trail lights. He explained the location of abutters to the camp noting that the basketball court and football field and bunk houses are the closest to an abutter but the court has no lights and there are thick woods between the court/bunk houses and the abutting property. There have been lights at the tennis and basketball courts abutting Center Pond for 60 years and they have a 10:30 lights off policy at that location and don't use that location for large/loud events so that they don't disturb neighbors across the lake. The camp parking lots are lit at night for safety but they are in a section of the camp where there are no neighbors within several hundred yards, near the state road and the camp service road. The need for lights in parking lots was discussed and how to make those lights less intrusive. There was a discussion about possible exceptions to an outdoor lighting Bylaw for camps or commercial areas. The Town of Richmond's Outdoor Lighting Bylaw was distributed to Committee members and committee members were referred to Amy Perlmutter's 3/21/17 email re dark skies.

The committee is considering a general Bylaw (Betterment) not a zoning Bylaw. The following were listed as areas to be considered for possible inclusion in the Bylaw:

1. Consider current Zoning Bylaw signage lights language
2. Applicability/Residences vs. commercial (see Truro Bylaw)
3. Grandfathering existing lights

4. Security
5. Parking areas (see Nantucket 102-3.e and f)
6. Types of lights, standards
7. Use restrictions
8. Exempt playing fields or set time limit (see Nantucket and Arlington Bylaws)
9. Lighting for special events; BOS approval/special events permit?
10. IESNA standard
11. Electric Co. street lights in private community's right of way; BOS hearing/approval? (See Richmond Bylaw)
12. Down lighting standard
13. Non compliant lighting
14. Distance from abutters
15. Hearing/Appeal process
16. Building Inspector enforcement? (See Truro Bylaw sec. 4-6-7, Arlington bylaw, Becket Vacant Properties bylaw)
17. Review International Dark Skies Association website

The Chair will draft language and distribute it to members in advance of our next meeting.

**General review of Town By-Laws (Article 1 thru Article 2B). a. Subheadings, table of contents, capitalization, standardization of language, fonts and other formatting to make the bylaws uniform throughout.**

This review was tabled until an upcoming meeting.

**Any other business to come before the Committee per G.L. c. 30A, § 20(b)**

The Chair reported that an email address, [bylaw@townofbecket.org](mailto:bylaw@townofbecket.org), has been added to the Bylaw Review Committee's webpage so that members of the public can contact the Committee.

The Town Administrator requested that the Bylaw Review Committee shepherd the hearing/warrant process of the following amendment that the Selectmen have approved:

Proposed Amendments to Article 17 Town Betterment Bylaws  
SECTION 21.

No person shall **(a)** drink or possess in an open or partially consumed container any alcoholic beverages as defined in MGL Chapter 138, **§ section1, or (b) smoke, ingest, or otherwise use or consume marijuana (marihuana) or tetrahydrocannabinol as defined in MGL Chapter 94C, section 1, as amended**, while on, in or upon any public way, or place to which the public has a right to access, excluding premises licensed under said ~~chapter~~ **Chapters 138 and 94C**, or in, on or upon private lands without the consent of the owner or person in control thereof.

A police officer may arrest without a warrant any person who commits a violation of this bylaw in his presence and may seize the alcoholic beverages, **marijuana or tetrahydrocannabinol**, which shall be kept by him and destroyed upon adjudication or returned to the person entitled to lawful possession. The penalty for any violation hereof shall be a fine not exceeding fifty dollars (\$50.00) for each offense. The provisions of this section may be penalized by indictment or on complaint brought in the district court or by non-criminal disposition as provided in M.G.L. Chapter 40, Section 21D. (Adopted 5/13/06 & effective 7/29/06)

**Next meeting date and adjournment**

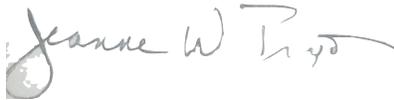
The next meeting was tentatively scheduled for June 21 at 2:00 p.m. By motion of A. Krawet, second of J. Pryor, the meeting was adjourned at 12:05 p.m.

List of documents discussed and/or distributed at meeting:

- Minutes of the April 5, 2017 Bylaw Review Committee meeting
- Town of Richmond's Outdoor Lighting Zoning Bylaw
- Truro Outdoor Lighting Bylaw
- Nantucket Outdoor Lighting Bylaw
- Amy Perlmutter's 3/21/17 email re dark skies
- Town Counsel comments regarding changes to Dog Control Bylaw
- Proposed Amendments to Article 17 Town Betterment Bylaws, SECTION 21.

Respectfully submitted by Jeanne Pryor

Approved by Jeanne Pryor, Chair

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jeanne W. Pryor". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J" and a long horizontal stroke at the end.