

Bylaw Review Committee 12/18/2019 Minutes

Attendance:

David Seligman (DS)

Mary McGurn (MM)

Jenn Frederick (JF)

Eileen Vining (EV)

Ellen Maggio (EM)

Richard Allen - Guest (RA)

Marj Wexler - Guest (MW)

Called to order by Chair David Seligman at 5:33 p.m.

- Minutes from the last meeting were reviewed.
 - Made amendments
 - Items amended and minutes approved

Discuss email from Alina Hsu

Alina Hsu sent an email to the committee outlining a number of ideas having to do with “working with the community to define a vision (values, principles, etc) for the town.”

Based on the charge of our committee as stated by the selectboard, we determine that her ideas are better presented to the selectboard or perhaps other specific committees, rather than our particular committee. DS will advise that she sends her note to the selectboard.

Continue Review of Bylaw 1

- **Section 5. Written Motions**
 - Egremont: Moderator can request that motion be in writing
 - The motion “to reconsider” may be something to include in the “Citizen’s Guide” so that people understand that nothing is final until the meeting is adjourned
 - **Differences with other towns**
 - GB requires motions to be in writing at Town Meetings
 - Monterey motion to reconsider
- **Section 6 (New: Section 1.4.3)** Votes to raise or appropriate funds by issuing bonds or notes (taking on debt/loan)
 - Could we somehow reference MGL where applicable, via Footnote to refer to Citizens Guide (put this in CG)
 - Seems to be a lot of variations on towns on this item
 - We agree to clean up the language on this section
- Section 7 and 8 were organized into New Section 4 (already reviewed) in new reformatted bylaws

- As an aside, we note that there is no reference when bylaws were passed. It may be helpful at least for archival purposes, to make a note of the date bylaws were/are passed.
- **Section 9: Date of town meeting**
 - Setting the date of town meeting. Egremont specifies the first tuesday of May. While some other towns specify a start time, we determine that this guideline is sufficient, and consider suggesting to the selectboard the possibility of a 6:30 start time, although we acknowledge that many consider this a tough time because they're coming after work.
- We note that we conclude MM bylaw review.

Forthcoming Bylaw Review Methodology

- New model proposed by RA: use the newly reformatted bylaws; come to the table with specific proposed changes modifications, rather than open with a general discussion
- DS proposed adopting this model; put on the agenda for the next meeting testing this method, and deciding which model to move forward with. Coming to the table with specific language ready to review and critique, rather than a general discussion will potentially speed up the process in order to complete our review before the Town Meeting in May.
- We discuss the pros and cons of this methodology versus reviewing each bylaw as a group from the outset.
- We agree to use the next meeting to test the proposed new method using RA's examples that he emailed to the group.
- We also decide to meet every two weeks to reach our goal.